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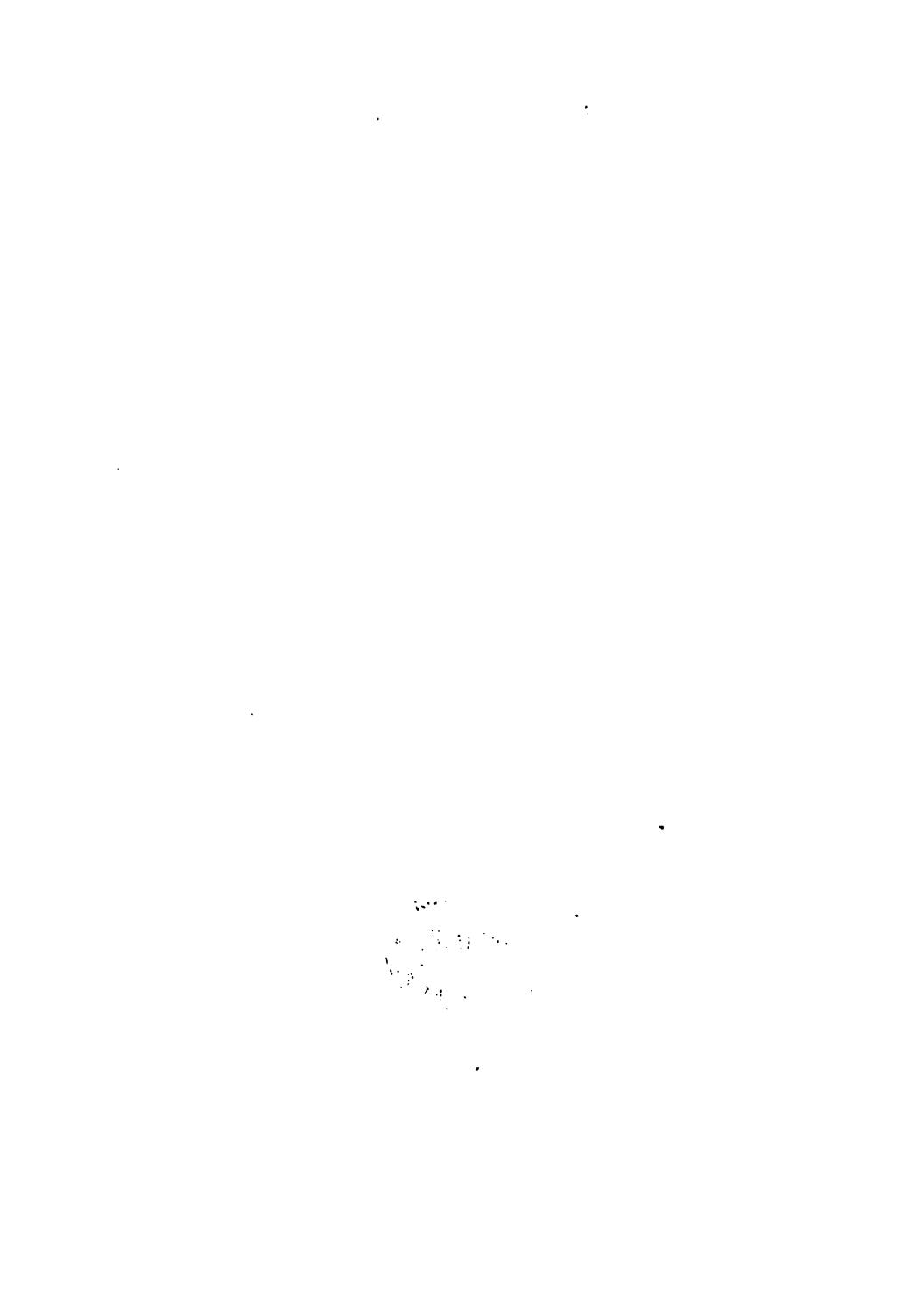
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FAMILY DEVOTION

ROGERS



FAMILY DEVOTION.



FAMILY DEVOTION

Prayers for the Household and Special Occasions

BY THE

REV. CHARLES ROGERS, LL.D.

"O God most bounteous !
Q infinite of goodness and of glory !
The knee, that Thou hast shaped, shall bend to Thee ;
The tongue, which Thou hast tuned, shall chant Thy praise."

—SMART.



L O N D O N

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P R E F A C E.

THOUGH ever in the frame of devotion, as being continually dependent upon God, the Christian believer feels that there are times and seasons when he is more especially called upon to acknowledge his obligations, confess his sins, and reverently set forth and celebrate the Divine praise. The prophet Daniel worshipped God evening, morning, and at noon ; the royal Psalmist engaged in devotion seven times a day, and the blessed Saviour spent whole nights in prayer. While, therefore, the precise times of approaching the Divine altar are left to individual liberty or convenience, it seems alike reasonable and appropriate that at the commencement and close of the day we should pour out our souls to Him who maketh the outgoings of the morn-

ing and evening to rejoice over us. As with golden brilliancy the sun tinges the horizon at his rising and setting, so ought the believer to gild each morning and evening by words of prayer. "Let prayer," said Matthew Henry, "be the key of the morning, and the bolt of the evening." He who neglects the obligation will cease to perform other duties of which the omission implies moral lethargy or spiritual unconcern.

Approaching One who has bestowed upon us time, in order by active service to improve it, who is altogether independent of our feeble offerings, and who knows what we stand in need of before we ask Him, our prayers should be short and simple. Of such a character is that form of prayer which our Lord taught His disciples, and has through them presented to us. After this form, too, our prayers ought to be comprehensive; we should pray for others as well as for ourselves, and as neighbours should recognise the whole human family. Adopting simple words, we will find the most suitable in the *utterances* of those holy men of old who

spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. As the only fountain which removes the stain of guilt is the blood of Jesus, so Holy Scripture is indeed the only source from which may be taken up words to be devotionally applied towards the Divine Author. Praying in Scriptural language, the Christian uses words and phrases which a prayer-hearing God has declared to be in His sight precious and acceptable. Prayer undervived in expression or sentiment from the sacred volume must lack the fervour of genuine worship ; it resembles the unhallowed fire, which brought on those who offered it rejection and punishment.

In the present manual an attempt is made humbly and reverently to convey in Scriptural language the aspirations of earnest worshippers. Of the prayers intended for the household, the earlier portion is, as intimated in the notes, founded chiefly on the "Book of Psalms." In the other prayers will also be remarked the devout and inspiring language of the sweet singer of Israel. In all the compositions will be found the devotional breath-

ings of patriarchs, prophets, and apostles, as well as the fervent utterances of the blessed Redeemer Himself.

Without adhering to any uniform system, the approved mode has been followed of including in each prayer the usual accompaniments of adoration, confession, thanksgiving, and petition. While this is so, there is in every composition an earnest and profound recognition of the Saviour's merits, since, apart from His revelation, obedience, atonement, and intercession, the ladder of prayer had not obtained any sure resting-place either on earth or heaven.

The plan of the work is to provide morning and evening household prayers for four weeks, also prayers for special exigencies, and conditions, and frames of mind. The compositions included in the "Occasional Prayers" are generally shorter than those in the earlier portion of the work, being intended for use in connection with family prayers, according to the circumstances of the household. It is to be hoped that these "Occasional Prayers" *include all, or nearly all, those conditions, or*

wants, or states of feeling, which would prompt an appeal to Him who heareth prayer, and judgeth righteously.

By the present manual it is not intended to promote or encourage a system of formal worship, or to relieve heads of families or others from conducting their devotional exercises in their own manner. The writer approves unpremeditated or extempore prayer, and would commend all who love the Lord Jesus Christ, and recognise the hallowed importance of devotion, to kneel at the Divine footstool breathing their own thoughts. All that is attempted in these pages is to provide an aid to prayer.

Nor does the writer claim any peculiar aptitude for this species of composition. He has not specially cultivated it, and he fears that he somewhat lacks the faculty of expressing succinctly and fervently, yet in unadorned words, the devout aspirations of those "who know, and know no more, their Bible true," for whose benefit the manual has been especially prepared. He has done what he could, and, in so doing, has not only searched the Scriptures diligently,

but the more esteemed writings of those who in the same field have laboured acceptably. While preserving throughout his own manner, he has not hesitated to adopt modes of expression used by others, when these were an emphatic reflex of Holy Writ.

In conclusion, the writer would venture to remark, that while he sends forth this little manual in the fervent hope that it will be found useful to those whom he has sought to help, he cannot, whatever may be the character of its reception, regret having produced it; for, in composing it, he has experienced comfort and solace amidst troubles thrust upon him by those whom he had not wronged, and respecting whom he hopes he can fully exercise that charity without which prayer lacks both fervency and faith.

CHARLES ROGERS.

GRAMPIAN LODGE,
FOREST HILL, SURREY,
August 1880.

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FAMILY DEVOTION.

FIRST WEEK.

I.

Sunday Morning.*

ON the first day of the week—the day on which our blessed Saviour rose from the dead—do we, O God, rejoice to draw near to Thee. This is the day the Lord hath made; we would be glad in it.

O day most calm, most bright!
The fruit of this, the next world's bud;
The indorsement of supreme delight,
Writ by a Friend, and with His blood:
The couch of time; care's balm and bay;
The week were dark, but for Thy light:
Thy torch doth show the way.

Blessed are they, O Lord, whom Thou choos-

* Psalms i.-iii.

est and causest to approach to Thee. For the refreshing rest of the past night we bless Thee: we lay down and slept, and rose up, because Thou didst shelter us. May we be in the Spirit on the Lord's Day. Within Thy sanctuary may Thy ministering servants faithfully proclaim Thy message, and, through grace, may the Word read and spoken edify Thy people, and awaken the careless. Bless, Lord, all Thine ordinances, so that those who wait upon Thee may feel as in Thy garden, and be refreshed as with streams from Lebanon. As a family may we show forth Thy praise. Beholding the great sacrifice at Calvary, may we be imbued with the Saviour's love. Guided by the Holy Spirit, may we feel that they who believe in Jesus shall obtain life everlasting. Through the dew of Thy grace may we, in holy living, bring forth fruit to Thy praise. From worldly vanity, idle conversation, and every evil way, Lord, deliver us. Avoiding the society of the foward, may we cherish the friendship of those who love Thy law. Lord, establish our hearts, and increase our faith. Bless our friends and neighbours; lead them in Thy paths. Enlighten those who are perishing for lack of knowledge. Break the bands of wickedness, and let the oppressed

go free. May those in high places love the truth and cherish it. May the poor be rich in faith. May that righteousness which exalteth a nation be found among us ; and, Lord, do Thou keep us free from sin, which is the reproach of any people. Thy kingdom come ; Thy will be done on earth, as it is done in heaven. Make Thy way known upon the earth ; Thy saving health among the nations. Give Thy Son the heathen for His inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for a possession. Hasten the time when, at the name of Jesus, every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess that He is Lord. May all now before Thee experience Thy mercy. May the young give their hearts to Thee, and the aged prove faithful. Our hope, O God, is in Thee ; and all we ask is for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

II.

*Sunday Evening.**

In Thee, O Lord, do we put our trust, and, according to Thy loving-kindness would we celebrate Thy praise. As in the morning we

* Psalms iv.-vii.

waited upon Thee, so now, in the evening, would we renew our vows. Within the sanctuary Thou didst comfort us ; now, while in our dwelling we again wait upon Thee, grant us Thy peace. We approach Thee with the offering of praise, and therewith would encompass Thine altar. Lord, have mercy upon us, for we are weak; help us, for we are in trouble. Our sins testify against us ; they have gone above our heads, and increased even to the heavens. Rebuke us not in Thine anger ; chasten us not in Thy displeasure. Let us hear Thy voice saying to us, I am with Thee. Thou hast laid our help on One that is mighty. In Jesus Christ have mercy and truth met together—righteousness and peace embraced. May we hear His voice saying to us, “Come unto me and I will give you rest.” Bearing His yoke, may we learn of Him. O that our heads were waters, and our eyes fountains of tears, that day and night we might weep for our transgressions. Lord, we will not let Thee go except Thou bless us ; draw us unto Thee. Lift upon us the light of Thy countenance, and in every good work make us earnest and faithful. Open our eyes that we may behold and realise Thy goodness. With hallowed fire from the sanctuary touch our hearts. Make Thy path

straight before us. Search us, good Lord ;
purify us and make us clean.

Lord, restrain the dissolute, check the forward, and deliver Thy servants from those who walk deceitfully. Amidst a perverse generation may we declare Thy faithfulness, and celebrate Thy mercy. Deliver us from our oppressors, and turn their hearts. Seal upon our hearts the sacred truths spoken within the sanctuary. What Thy pure eye hath seen amiss in our attempts to serve Thee, graciously forgive. May we be doers of Thy Word, and not hearers only ; and, while presenting the form of godliness, may we be influenced by its power.

Thanks we give, and adoration,
For Thy Gospel's joyful sound ;
Let the fruits of Thy salvation
In our hearts and lives abound.
May Thy presence
With us evermore be found.

And now, O God, as we surrender ourselves to Thy care, do Thou spread Thy wings over us ; so shall we lie down and sleep, for in Thee we dwell safely. And to Thy name be praise and glory, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

III.

Monday Morning.*

With the light of the morning, Lord, lift upon us the light of Thy countenance. How excellent, O God, is Thy name in all the earth ! Thou hast set Thy glory above the heavens. As we behold the countless orbs which own Thy sovereignty, how well may we exclaim, What is man, that Thou art mindful of him ! And yet, Lord, Thou hast made us only a little lower than the angels, crowned us with glory and honour, and given us dominion over Thy creatures. What shall we render to Thee for Thy goodness and the multitude of Thy mercies ! We bless Thee that Thou hast not bounded our hope within the narrow span of the present life, but in Thy word hast declared that though this earthly house of our tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. We thank Thee, O God, that our High Priest has ascended up on high, having, in our nature, made reconciliation. Lord, may we see Him at Thy right hand, a Prince and a Saviour, presenting to Thee the prayers of

* Psalms viii.-x.

His people, and preparing for them an eternal dwelling-place.

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ the true, the only light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise,
Triumph o'er the shades of night.
Day-spring from on high be near ;
Day-star, in our hearts appear.

Conform us, merciful Father, to the pure and hallowed example of Thy Son, our Saviour. With pure hearts, following Him, may we rejoice in His glad tidings and proclaim His love. Lord, help our infirmities, remove from us pride and vain-glory, and purge us from malice, hatred, and all uncharitableleness. When we are oppressed relieve us, and in the time of trouble defend and succour us. Requite us not as we have sinned, nor let our enemies prevail over us. Lord, let not our hope perish, for we trust in Thee. Make us watchful and prayerful, active in business and fervent in spirit. Faithful in discharging every obligation may we thereby honour Thee. Give us food convenient for our bodies, and feed our souls with the manna of Thy word. In the way of righteousness lead us and all near and dear to us. And to Thy holy name be praise and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

IV.

*Monday Evening.**

As the day closes, it is good for us, O Lord, to wait upon Thee. Thou who didst command our outgoings in the morning hast made those of the evening to rejoice over us. In Thee, O God, do we put our trust. Look upon us from Thy holy temple, and by Thy righteousness do Thou uphold us. Who is like to Thee, O God, who art glorious in holiness, fearful in praises, ever doing wonders ? Who may celebrate Thy glory, or aright set forth Thy praise ? We especially adore Thee as a God of love, reconciling a guilty world to Thyself, and not imputing to men their trespasses. When the poor cried to Thee Thou didst deliver them ; out of Thine abundant fulness hast Thou supplied the wants of every living thing. Upon thousands hast Thou had mercy, forgiving their iniquity, transgression, and sin. Lord; how shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation ? Forbid that to us should be applied the prophet's words, "The stork in the heavens knoweth her appointed times, and the turtle, and the crane, and the swallow

* Psalms xi.-xiii.

observe the time of their coming; but my people know not the judgment of the Lord."

Be our help in trouble, make the storm a calm, and in the tempest enable us to hear the Saviour's words, "It is I, be not afraid." Shelter us in the ark of grace. After things true and honest, just and pure, lovely and of good report, enable us to search diligently. Make us as temples to Thy praise. By Thy Holy Spirit enlighten us, rescuing us from vain thoughts and corrupt imaginations. Within us bring forth the fruits of repentance. Unseduced by sin and the craft of the Evil One, may we grow in grace.

We pray for the young. Finding wisdom may they seek Thee early, surrender their hearts to Thee, and keep Thy covenant. Lord, watch over us during the night, and grant us rest and sleep.

God, that madest earth and heaven,
Darkness and light,
Who the day for toil hast given,
For rest the night;
May Thine angel guards defend us,
Slumber sweet Thy mercy send us,
Holy dreams and hopes attend us
This live-long night.

And all we ask is for the Redeemer's sake.
Amen.

v.

Tuesday Morning.*

To Thee, O Lord, would we reverently draw near. We would come to Thy holy hill, and approach the throne of Thy holiness. Thou desirest not costly sacrifice, for the earth is Thine and its fulness. The sacrifice in which Thou art well pleased is the prayer of the contrite. At the household altar we confess our sins and acknowledge our transgressions. We are of unclean lips; we have lifted up our souls to vanity, and deceived our own hearts. Towards others we have been froward and uncharitable, yet have we not repented nor turned from our rebellion against Thee. The true riches have we neglected for the unrighteous mammon. Instead of the heavenly manna we have sought the bread that perisheth. From Thee, as lost sheep, have we gone astray, turning every one to his own way, and following the devices and desires of our own hearts. Among us is there none that doeth good.

Have mercy upon us, O God. By Thy counsel guide us; guard our steps. Keep us

* Psalms xiv.-xvii.

as the apple of Thine eye, and show us Thy marvellous loving-kindness. Save us by Thy right hand, even as we put our trust in Thee. Blessed are they, O God, whose hope Thou art, for they shall be as trees planted beside the waters. Enable us to realise Thy promise that with Thy people Thou wilt make an everlasting covenant. Look upon us in the face of Thine Anointed. Setting the Saviour on our right hand, may we not be moved. Like Jesus, may we be pure and gentle. In our dealings make us upright, in our affections warm, and under provocation patient. In serving Thee may we obtain pleasure, in obeying Thy commandments a chiefest joy. Both in the world and in the family may we severally testify to Thy goodness. Instructing the ignorant, reclaiming the wayward, and rebuking the careless, may we show forth Thy praise. As, O God, Thou hast sheltered us at night, do Thou shield us during the day.

Since Thou hast added now, O God,
Unto our lives another day,
And giv'st us leave to walk abroad,
And labour in our lawful way;
Our walks and works with us begin,
Conduct us forth, and bring us in.

After discharging our various duties abroad,
bring us, O God, in the evening again together
to bless Thy holy name. For the sake of Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.

VI.

Tuesday Evening.*

By day the green earth, O Lord, declares
Thy glory ; at night the starry host proclaims
Thy praise. Who is a god like to Thee, or
among the sons of the mighty who may be
compared to Thee ? From everlasting to ever-
lasting Thou art, the same yesterday, to-
day, and for ever. Of old Thou didst estab-
lish the earth upon the floods, bringing order
out of chaos and light out of darkness.
At Thy voice doth the earth quiver ; at the
breath of Thy nostrils the sea is troubled.
But, Lord, we especially rejoice that Thou
art good, and that love and mercy support
Thy throne. In our ruined condition hast
Thou with gracious words come to us, saying,
“Deliver from going down to the pit, for I
have found a ransom.” In Jesus Christ, Thy

* Psalms xviii., xix.

Son, we behold our shield and buckler, our defence, the Captain of our salvation. Forbid, O God, that we should glory save in His cross, or rest on other righteousness save His only. Convince us of sin, for without Thy grace we cannot understand our errors. Purge us from open transgressions, also from secret faults. From those sins which do more easily beset us graciously cleanse us. By nature we are weak and sinful; through grace make us strong and faithful. Warn us in Thy Providence; teach us by Thy word. May Thy precepts enlighten our minds; Thy testimonies rejoice our hearts. Girded with spiritual armour may we fight the good fight of faith; and, overcoming every evil inclination, hold fast without wavering the profession of our faith.

O God, that madest earth and sky, the darkness and the day,
Give ear to us Thy family, and help us when we pray;
For wide the waves of bitterness around our vessel roar,
And heavy grows the pilot's heart to view the rocky shore!

The cross our Master bore for us, for Him we fain would bear,
But mortal strength to weakness turns, and courage to despair.
Then mercy on our failings, Lord, our sinking faith renew;
And when Thy sorrows visit us, O send Thy patience too.

Renew us, Lord, in the spirit of our minds;
let goodness and mercy follow us. Adopt

into Thy family all the young persons now before Thee. In the days of their youth may they serve Thee, their Creator, and be taught of Him who laid His hands on the young and blessed them. During the approaching night, O God, watch over us ; and grant that the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts may be acceptable in Thy sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

VII.

*Wednesday Morning.**

The kingdoms are Thine, O God ; Thou art Ruler among the nations. But especially art Thou present with those who assemble to worship Thee ; and where two or three, in the name of Jesus, gather together, Thou art in the midst of them. Enable us to rejoice in Thee ; and in heaven, Thy dwelling-place, hear us as we approach Thy presence. From Thy sanctuary help us ; bless us out of Sion. In the morning would we pay our vows, and, with our brethren, praise Thee.

* Psalms xx.-xxii.

Lord God of morning and of night,
We thank Thee for Thy gift of light ;
As in the dawn the shadows fly,
We seem to find Thee now more nigh.

While some trust in riches, others in the multitude of an host, Lord, we will trust in Thy providence.

Thou hast, O God, been gracious to us, and hast not withholden from us the best blessings. When refuge failed us we looked to Thee, and the desire of our hearts hast thou given us. Thine own arm has brought us salvation ; Thy righteousness hath sustained us. To those who mourned for sin hast Thou given beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. In Christ Jesus Thou hast built up the waste places, and restored the desolation of many generations. Relying on the Saviour, may we, O Lord, not fear the mockery of the foward. Our fathers trusted in Thee, and Thou didst help them. Protect and shelter us so that, to the generations following, we may declare that they who wait upon Thee shall not suffer shame. From sorrow, poverty, and trial, good Lord, deliver us. Feed us with food convenient for us, and clothe us with the Saviour's righteousness. Succour and bless

all who especially need Thy help. Enlighten the ignorant, reclaim the erring, make the wavering steadfast. During the day take us under Thy fatherly protection. And to Thy name be everlasting praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

VIII.

*Wednesday Evening.**

Thou art, O Lord, our Father and our Redeemer. By the green pastures, and beside the still waters, hast Thou led us. When we strayed into the wilderness, Thou didst not leave us to perish, for, where sin abounded, Thy grace did much more abound. To Thine angels hast Thou given charge of us, that our feet might not slip. Continue to us, O God, Thy providential blessings. Give us corn and oil; deliver us from pestilence and famine, and grant that plenty may recompense our labours. If oppressed and in perplexity, may we, in the furnace, be cleansed and purified. In our callings prosper us; make us careful, diligent, and prudent. As individuals, and as

* Psalms xxiii.-xxvi.

a household, bless us. May our souls prosper and be in health. With spiritual food provide us, and in the path of righteousness lead us for evermore. Guide us unto all truth, Good Shepherd of Israel, for upon Thee do we wait continually. Neither the follies of our youth, nor the transgressions of our riper years, do Thou remember against us, but, from the book of Thy remembrance graciously blot them out. As we knock at the gate of heaven, hear and answer us. See our shield; look upon us in the face of Thine Anointed.

To Thee, O God, do we offer our prayers, and humbly would we entreat Thy blessing. Lord, help us. Grant us the spirit of adoption whereby we may cry, Abba, Father. Examine us, good Lord, and try our reins. Inscribing holiness upon our hearts, grant us an earnest of Thy love. Sanctify our affections. Watch over us during the night, for to Thy keeping do we commit both our bodies and our souls.

Sun of our souls, Thou Saviour dear,
It is not night if Thou be near.
Oh ! may no earth-born cloud arise
To hide Thee from Thy servants' eyes !

Hear us, O God, for the Redeemer's sake.
Amen.

IX.

Thursday Morning.*

Together would we in the morning, O Lord,
bless and extol Thy name.

Worship, honour, glory, blessing,
Lord, we offer to Thy name ;
Young and old, their praise expressing,
Join, Thy goodness to proclaim.
As the saints in heaven adore Thee,
We would bow before Thy throne ;
As the angels serve before Thee,
So on earth Thy will be done.

As again we behold the light of day, we again entreat Thee to enlighten and comfort us. To Thee, O God, belong glory and strength ; Thou sittest on the circle of the earth ; Thy voice is in the sea, and at Thy thunders do the mountains tremble. Even the nations are as nothing before Thee ; they are counted less than nothing and vanity. But, Lord, Thou hast revealed Thyself to us as a God of love, the Father of all mercies. Thou art our light and our salvation, whom shall we fear, the strength of our life, of whom shall we be afraid ? In-

* Psalms xxvii.-xxx.

cline us, Lord, to worship Thee more and more fervently, and to the voice of our supplications do Thou graciously bend Thine ear. Even while we are calling to Thee may we hear Thy voice saying that Thou wilt bless us. By the dew of Thy Spirit, O God, refresh and strengthen us. Be our helper, and uphold us by Thy right hand ; be our hiding-place from the wind, our covert from the tempest ; be to us as rivers of water in a dry place, and as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. While we mourn make us glad, and bring joy on our night of weeping. Harbour us in the day of trouble ; deliver us from oppression, and, placing our feet upon the Rock of Ages, make us safe. Trusting in Thy Son, our Saviour, may we be of good courage ; may we walk heavenward leaning on the arm of our Beloved. Make us temples to Thy praise. Sanctify us to Thy glory. Leading us in a plain path, make us to walk uprightly. Endue us with that wisdom that is from above, which is pure, peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. Protect us till the shades of evening gather round, and then bring us again to Thy holy altar. For the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

X.

*Thursday Evening.**

In the evening and at all times will we bless Thee, O Lord ; Thy praise will be continually in our mouths. As our souls rejoice in Thee, so will we together exalt and glorify Thy name. Thou art near, O God, to all who call upon Thee, and hearest the prayers of the contrite. We confess our sins. Which of Thy commandments have we not broken in thought, in word, or in deed ; we are altogether unclean. Lord, have mercy upon us, for we are in trouble, and our eyes are consumed with grief. Through the rent veil of the Redeemer's flesh grant that we obtain access to the holiest of holies, even to Thy presence. Through the beams of the Sun of Righteousness enlighten our souls. By extending to us the golden sceptre do Thou invite us to come to Thee. May we see the King in His beauty. Joyful in His reign may we exclaim, Sing, O ye heavens, and rejoice, O earth, for the Lord hath comforted His people. With a guileless loving spirit may we reverently obey the Saviour's teaching. Crucifying the flesh and mortifying every corrupt desire, may

* Psalms xxxi.-xxxiv.

we die to sin daily. In the midst of a perverse generation may we be witnesses for Jesus, and without wavering hold fast our faith. Show us Thy marvellous kindness by delivering us from temptation. Grant us the earnest of Thy presence ; seal us to Thyself. Our times are in Thy hand, O God ; lead us in the way in which we ought to go, and turn our mourning into joy. If reproached for Thy sake, may we submit patiently, and be sustained by that glorious hope which maketh not ashamed. We bless Thee for Thy protecting care of us during the day now closing. Thine angel has encamped about us, and shielded us from danger. Towards us hast Thou opened Thine hand liberally ; and we have plentifully experienced Thy goodness.

Through the day Thy love hath spared us,
Now we lay us down to rest,
Through the silent watches guard us,
Let no foe our peace molest ;
Jesus, Thou our guardian be,
Sweet it is to trust in Thee.

Spread, O God, Thy banner over us and bless us, and hear our prayers ; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

XI.

Friday Morning.*

On this, the morning of a new day, do we desire, O Lord, to unite with angels and the spirits of just men made perfect in celebrating Thy praise. In Thee is the fountain of life; we are Thy handiwork, the sheep of Thy pasture. By Thy providence are we sustained and nourished. Great is Thy mercy; it increaseth to the heavens, even when Thy judgments are as a great deep. Lord, may we rejoice in Thee, and be glad in Thy salvation. Plead our cause, and enable us to see Thee as the Mighty One of Jacob. In Thy beloved Son, our Saviour, may we behold our peace. Forbid that He who is the root and the offspring of Jesse, the plant of renown, the tree of life, whose leaves are for the healing of the nations, should ever in our eyes appear as a root out of a dry ground, without form or comeliness, that He might be desired. May we see Him as the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world; and in faith looking upon Him, be led fervently to exclaim, “My Lord and my God.”

* Psalms xxxv.-xxxvii.

As members of Thy family, O God, gather us into Thy fold. Plead our cause, rescue our souls, and grant that under Thy wings we may find safety. Departing from evil may we do good ; honouring Thy law may we in Thine ordinances walk reverently. While there be many who say, "Who will shew us any good," may the language of our hearts be, "Lord, lift upon us the light of Thy countenance." Rightly comprehending the perishable nature of human enjoyments, may we seek after those pleasures which are at Thy right hand. Avoiding malice, envy, covetousness, and all uncharitableness, may we walk circumspectly. Clothed in the spotless robe of the Redeemer's righteousness, may our lives be pure and holy. With desire unfeigned may we worship Thee, whether we walk by the way or dwell in our homes. Waiting upon Thee, do Thou renew our strength, and in the path of duty lead us to walk unweariedly. Uphold us, Lord, by Thy Spirit, so that in circumstances of anxiety, perplexity, and doubt we may see clearly. On our path let light arise. Preserve us from the fiery darts of the Evil One, and perfect within us the good work of grace. Forsake us not, O God, for we trust in Thee, even in Him whom Thou didst appoint as our guide and Saviour.

O Christ, with each returning morn
Thine image to our hearts is borne ;
O may we ever clearly see
Our Saviour and our God in Thee ! .

For the Redeemer's sake do Thou, O God,
hear and answer us. Amen.

XII.

Friday Evening.*

This evening, O God, would we come before Thee, confessing our sins. Our iniquities have gone over our heads ; they burden our souls. By nature we are prone to evil, and by actual transgression are we alienated from Thee. Unclean and ready to halt, when we would do good, evil is present with us. Lord, who shall deliver us from bondage, and relieve the disquietude of our hearts ? Rebuke us not in Thy hot displeasure, but pardon us graciously. Deliver us from the horrible pit, out of the miry clay, setting our feet upon a rock, and making sure our steps. Show us the wonderful works which Thou hast done, and Thy thoughts to us-ward ; these indeed

* Psalms xxxviii.-xli.

cannot be reckoned up ; who can number them ? No costly offering, or sacrifice, or burnt-offering didst Thou desire from us, but in our ears hast Thou proclaimed the glad tidings that our Redeemer liveth. In the fountain of His blood cleanse us from our leprosy. In Him may we behold that manifestation of Divine love which many waters cannot quench, neither the floods extinguish. In His life may we see a pattern of perfect virtue ; in His death, complete reconciliation. May we glory in His cross, and, beholding His salvation, exclaim, the Lord be magnified.

Through grace, O Lord, inspire within us the hallowed flame. With a live coal from Thine altar touch our lips, so that, our iniquities purged away, we may aright show forth Thy praise. To Thy service may we consecrate our lives. With our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water, may we serve Thee joyfully. Feeding on the manna of Thy Word, and drinking of the pure water of holiness, may we yearn for the purchased possession—the house of many mansions. And, till the day dawn and the shadows flee away, may we lean on the arm of our Beloved in confidence and in hope.

Lord, watch over us during the night, and grant us refreshing rest.

All praise to Thee, our God, this night,
For all the blessings of the light ;
Keep us, O keep us, King of kings,
Beneath Thine own almighty wings !

For the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

XIII.

Saturday Morning.*

To Thee, O God, our heavenly Father, whose mercy is over all Thy works, we, Thine unworthy servants, would again reverently draw near. As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so do our souls pant after Thee. Lord, we know, and our fathers have told us, what Thou didst for Thy people in the old times; we bless Thee that Thy compassion fails not. Incline Thine ear to our prayers, and, conducting us by Thy light and truth, bring us to Thy holy hill. We adore Thee as the omnipotent and eternal Jehovah. Thy throne is established for ever, and throughout the universe extends the sceptre of Thy king-

* Psalms xlii.-xlv.

dom. Especially, O God, do we worship and praise Thee as the Father of Jesus Christ our blessed Saviour. In Him do we behold our King, all glorious within. As Thou hast anointed Him with the oil of gladness, may our souls, divinely nourished, be neither disquieted nor cast down. Looking to Jesus may we not turn back because of our enemies. As for us He was mocked and buffeted, may we, for His sake, be content to suffer shame. Lord, strengthen us against temptation and the allurements of the flesh and of the mind. Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world, grant us Thy peace.

As, streaming from the eastern skies,
The morning light salutes our eyes,
O Sun of Righteousness Divine,
On us with beams of mercy shine ;
Chase the dark clouds of guilt away,
And turn our darkness into day.

Holy Father, help our infirmities ; make intercession for us. Thou wert the guide of our youth ; Lord, be the stay of our riper years. In the pilgrimage of life, bearing us up, may we not stumble from the right path. Write upon us a new name, and make us pillars in Thy holy temple. This day may we walk before Thee prudently and wisely.

May our speech be with grace, seasoned with salt, and our conversation become the Gospel. Walking circumspectly may we redeem the time. Not slothful in business may we be fervent in spirit. Shaking off sloth and apathy may we cherish holiness, and seek after those things which conduce to edifying. And to Thee be all the praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

XIV.

*Saturday Evening.**

Thou art great, O God, and greatly to be feared ; Thou art worthy to be held in reverence of all who draw nigh to Thee. Thou art our refuge and our strength, in trouble a present help. Therefore will we trust in Thee, alike in darkness and in light ; in the evening as when the day breaketh. Daily do we taste Thy loving-kindness, and share Thy gifts. From Thee we receive food and raiment, and all the blessings of this life. Thou protectest us by the way, and from us and our dwellings dost ward off the noisome pestilence. In

* Psalms xlvi.-li.

affliction we had been overwhelmed, but Thou didst comfort us. In adversity Thou hast been our shield. To us hast Thou opened the gate of immortality, cheering us by the hope of glory. Lord, pity us, for we are unworthy of Thy favour. Foolish and foward, disobedient and rebellious, we have sinned against Thee, and done evil ; we have played the fool exceedingly, and there is no soundness in us. Come to us, O God, with power and might, so that we may love the truth and be wise in heart. Purge us with hyssop, and we shall be clean ; wash us, and we shall be whiter than snow. Restore unto us the joy of Thy salvation, and by Thy Spirit do Thou uphold us.

We desire, O Lord, to make a covenant with Thee. Declaring Thy righteousness we would render sacrifice upon Thine altar. Thereon we shall not offer the blood of bullocks, nor the fat of rams, for every beast of the forest is Thine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. Thou delightest not in burnt-offering ; the sacrifice which Thou acceptest is the broken spirit. With humble and obedient hearts lead us to consecrate ourselves to Thee. Create in us clean hearts, and renew right spirits within us. Cast us not away from Thy presence, nor

take Thy Holy Spirit from us. Sanctify our lips, and our mouths shall show forth Thy praise. Knowing that our Redeemer liveth may we rejoice in His salvation. Walking with Him by faith may we, through grace, be purified, even as He is pure. Delivering us from the bondage of corruption through the liberty that is in Christ Jesus, may we also with open face, beholding, as in a glass, the glory of the Lord, be changed into the same image, from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord. Make us thine inheritance, O God, and, by Thy Holy Spirit, uphold and purify us. Serving Thee acceptably may we, in newness of life, walk before Thee. Strengthen us, and build us up. At the close of another week lead us to contemplate the approaching close of life, and so to improve our time.

God of our lives, through all our days,
Our grateful powers shall sound Thy praise;
Our song shall wake with opening light,
And warble to the silent night.

During the approaching night may we, O God, enjoy refreshing rest, and, through Thy blessing, be brought to the light of another day. And all we ask is for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

SECOND WEEK.

xv.

*Sunday Morning.**

On the morning of Thy holy day, we desire,
O Lord, humbly to wait upon Thee. Thou
art our God, early will we seek Thee. Our
souls thirst for Thee as in a dry and thirsty
land. In the family, even as in the sanctuary,
we would pay our vows to Thee. Because
Thy loving-kindness is better than life, our
lips shall praise Thee. While we live will we
bless Thee. On our beds, in the night watches,
did we meditate upon Thee, and now would
we follow after Thee. Be to us, O God, as a
strong tower. By Thy right hand uphold us.
In the morning would we proclaim Thy mercy,
and until the evening declare Thy faithfulness.
Morning, evening, and at noon, we would
reverently worship Thee.

To Thee our humble vows we raise,
To Thee address our prayer,
And in Thy kind and faithful breast,
Deposit all our care.

* Psalms lii.-lxiv.

Be merciful to us, O God, for under the shadow of Thy wings do we make our refuge. Our heart is fixed upon Thee, for great is Thy mercy. Lord, save us from our enemies, and from pride, vain-glory, and contempt of Thy holy commandments. From hardness of heart, hypocrisy, self-deceit, and neglect of Thine ordinances, graciously deliver us. Thou knowest our frailty; how prone we are to forget Thee and Thy ways. Mercifully deliver us. Look upon us in the face of Thine Anointed. On this day, consecrated in memorial of His resurrection, may we publicly own our Redeemer. Lord, may each of us confess Thee in all our acts and services.

In the hands of Thy ministering servants may Thy word be quick and powerful, and lead to the comfort of Thy people and the awakening of the unconverted. Teaching the young and inexperienced how to purify their way, may it not knock in vain at the hearts of the aged. And now, O Lord, do Thou fix our thoughts steadfastly on Thy word, and go forth with us to worship Thee. Experiencing that a day spent in Thy courts is better than a thousand, may we therein learn Thy counsels, and find wisdom. We ask these mercies for Jesus' sake. Amen.

XVI.

*Sunday Evening.**

Within Thy courts, O God, have we waited upon Thee, and Thou hast heard us. Satisfied with the goodness of Thy house we would renew our vows. Blessed is every one whom Thou enablest to offer to Thee the sacrifice of praise. For the bounties of Thy providence and all the comforts of this life we bless Thy holy name. From our youth Thou hast been to us as a loving Father. At Thy command earth and sea have yielded to us their treasures. Thou hast recompensed our labours, relieved our anxieties, and ministered to our wants. Daily hast Thou befriended us.

Fountain of mercy, God of love !
How rich Thy bounties are !
The rolling seasons as they move
Proclaim Thy constant care.

We especially bless Thee, O God, for what Thou hast done for our souls in the abundant revelation of Jesus Christ. We thank Thee for His counsels, the example of His holy life, and the great redemption purchased by His blood. Through faith may we see Him

* Psalms lxv.-lxvii.

as our great High Priest passed into the heavenly sanctuary, crowned with glory and honour, invested with the garment of salvation, bearing on His breastplate the names of His people, ministering on their behalf at the golden altar, and presenting their prayers as an offering acceptable unto Thee who sitteth upon the throne. Trusting in Jesus, may we put on bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering, forbearing one another and forgiving one another. Lord, increase our faith, and let Thy love dwell in our hearts. Make us patient, submissive, and devoted to Thy will. Be merciful to us, and bless us, and cause Thy face to shine upon us.

Turn not, O Lord, from our prayer ; but graciously accept our sacrifice. Declaring what Thou hast done for our souls may we enable those around us to understand Thy ways. Remembering that we are not our own, but bought with a price, may we so act that others, seeing our good works, may glorify Thy name. Extend the boundaries of the Redeemer's kingdom. Make Thy way known upon the earth, Thy saving health among the nations. Let the people praise Thee, O God. Forgive, Lord, what Thy pure

eye hath seen amiss in our attempts to worship Thee, and grant us during the night quiet and refreshing rest. And all we ask is for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

XVII.

*Monday Morning.**

Blessed art Thou, O God, for Thou grantest strength to Thy people, and dost deliver those who trust in Thee. In all generations Thou hast succoured those who reverently sought after Thee. As yesterday Thou didst comfort us in Thy sanctuary, so this day do Thou protect us in discharging our several duties. In the light of the morning experiencing a new token of Thy love, may we be led with renewed ardour to declare Thy loving-kindness. Protect us from lying lips and the devices of wicked or foolish men.

Shepherd of Thine Israel, lead us,
Pilgrims through this desert land ;
Thou who hast from bondage freed us,
Guard us by Thy mighty hand ;
Daily feed us
Till we reach the heavenly strand.

* Psalms lxviii.-lxx.

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bearing each other's burdens and ministering to each other's wants. Not overcharged with the cares of this life, may we lean on the arm of our Beloved, and in Him beholding Thy glory, live to Thy praise. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

XVIII.

*Monday Evening.**

O God, we would this evening declare Thy wondrous works, and give thanks at the remembrance of Thy holiness.

Father and Friend ! Thy light, Thy love,
Beaming through all Thy works we see ;
Thy glory gilds the heavens above,
And all the earth is full of Thee.

Whom have we, O Lord, in heaven but Thee ; on earth there is none whom we desire besides Thee. Distant from us as Thou art, since sinful man may not see Thy face and live, Thou art very near to us in Him who bears Thine image. May we see Thee in Christ Jesus, Thy faithful witness, the Captain of our salvation. As by His precious

* Psalms lxxi.-lxxv.



blood Thou hast redeemed us, may we enjoy the privilege of approaching Thee as Thy children. Through Him may we partake of the heavenly manna, and in Him drink rivers in the desert. With hearts lowly and penitent, O Lord, do we acknowledge our transgressions. Our iniquities testify against us, and we cannot answer Thee. As a leprosy, sin has overspread our faculties, desires, and inclinations ; and when we would do good, corruption is present in our hearts. But Thou art our hope. In the Redeemer's blood, O God, make us clean. And with the pardon of our sins, Lord, bestow upon us those comforts which are needful for us. Having our habitation in Thee, may we enjoy Thy peace. Amidst trial and sorrow may we lean on Thy staff, and find spiritual strength. As Thou hast sheltered us from our youth, protect us still. From the depths of despair and anguish rescue us, and let our lips praise Thee. Among the nations, O God, make known Thy saving health ; and upon those who sit in the dark places, let light arise. Spare the poor, and relieve the destitute. Comfort the afflicted, draw near to the dying. Watch over us during the approaching night, giving Thine angels charge over us. And may the words of our mouths,

and the meditations of our hearts, find acceptance with Thee, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

XIX.

*Tuesday Morning.**

This morning, O Lord, would we renew our vows, and reverently call upon Thee. A God who doest wonders, Thou hast to Thy people in every age proclaimed Thy goodness. Lord, hear our prayer; have respect to our sacrifice. Send us help from above, and let Thy face shine upon us. As Thy flock bring us to goodly pastures.

We have, O Lord, offended against Thee. Our sins overwhelm us; as the proud waves they have gone over our souls. Stubborn and rebellious, we have been unmindful of Thy covenant and forgotten Thy mercies. From many troubles hast Thou delivered us, and when we were depressed and overwhelmed Thou hast upraised and comforted us. Yet, O God, we have provoked Thee to anger and grieved Thy Spirit. We have brought re-

* Psalms lxxvi.-lxxx.

proach on Thy name, and dishonoured our holy faith. Have compassion upon us, good Lord, and remember not our iniquities against us. Help us, God of our salvation, and purge away our sins.

There is a fountain filled with blood,
Drawn from Emmanuel's veins ;
And sinners, plunged beneath that flood,
Lose all their guilty stains.

Lord, look upon us in Him whose tabernacle is Salem, whose dwelling-place is Sion. Surely Thou hast not forgotten to be gracious; Thy promise has not failed; Thy mercy is not gone. From the sanctuary of Thy glory Thou regardest the children of men; Thou deliverest them from their distresses. Thou art now, O God, enabling us to share in the privileges of Thy kingdom, and we hope in Thee. Over the sea of sorrow permit us to pass safely. From the rock of trouble send us refreshing streams. Feed us not with the bread of tears, but lead us into all peace. Search our hearts, and consecrate them to Thy service. Visit the vineyard which Thou hast planted, and bless Thine inheritance. During the day preserve our bodies and nourish our souls. May we be prudent and gentle, upright and patient.

May we do good as we have opportunity, and shun the appearance of evil. For Jesus' sake.
Amen.

xx.

*Tuesday Evening.**

Thou art, O Lord, greatly to be feared and greatly to be held in reverence of all who draw nigh to Thee. The gods whom the nations worship are dumb idols, but Thou art the living and true God. The heavens are Thine; the earth also is Thine, and all that it contains. On the mountain of holiness is Thy throne, judgment and righteousness are Thy pavilion, mercy and truth Thy habitation. Blessed are they that know Thee, O God, for in the light of Thy countenance they shall dwell safely. As in the morning we acknowledged Thy mercies, so now in the evening would we declare Thy faithfulness. In Thee have we rejoiced all the day, for Thou wert near us even on our right hand and on our left, that we might not be moved. Shielding us from danger, Thou hast supplied our wants and granted us many tokens of Thy love. Invit-

* Psalms lxxxii.-lxxxix.

ing us to share Thy grace, Thou hast nourished us with the finest of the wheat, and with honey out of the rock hast satisfied us. Lord, revive our souls.

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing,
Tune our hearts to sing Thy grace ;
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,
Call for songs of loudest praise.

As we daily share Thy bounty and experience Thy loving-kindness, so each day may we appear before Thee with the voice of thanksgiving. Lord, Thou art good, and ready to forgive, and abundant in mercy. Hear the words of our supplication. Turn not from us in Thine anger, but speak peace to our souls. Number us with Thy people, and enrol our names in Thy book. Teach us Thy way, and we will praise Thee and glorify Thy name. Thou hast laid our help on One more exalted than the kings of the earth. Lord, we would lean upon Him wholly. Through Jesus establish with us Thy covenant. Be to us, Lord, as a sun and shield ; give us grace, and from us withhold nothing that is truly good. And the praise and the glory shall be Thine. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

XXI.

*Wednesday Morning.**

It is good, O Lord, to give thanks to Thee ; and in the morning to declare Thy faithfulness. Before the universe was framed, or the earth fashioned, Thou wert ; and when the waters shall be dried up, and the mountains crumble into ruins Thou shalt endure, the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever. Lord, what are we, or any of our fathers' house, that we should be made partakers of Thy love and goodness ? In Thy sight, we are as yesterday, or as a watch in the night—for our lives are bounded by threescore years and ten, or fourscore years. Lord, afflict us not in Thy wrath, chasten us not in Thy hot displeasure ; but mercifully deliver us from our sins, and take us under Thy shelter.

Be our help in trouble, in adversity deliver us. Under Thy protection, may no evil befall us, and no plague come nigh our dwelling. Shield us from the pestilence that walketh in darkness, and from the destruction which wasteth at noon. With Thy temporal bounties lead us to share in the riches of Thy grace. Set

* Psalms xc.-xciv.

Thy love upon us, and so make us glad according to the days wherein Thou hast afflicted us, the years wherein we have seen evil. In the blessed work of redemption may we rest our souls. Watered by the dew of Thy grace may we flourish as the palm trees. Cast us not from Thee, O God; forsake not the children of Thine inheritance. Let the remembrance of Thy goodness comfort and delight our hearts. Manifest Thy mercy towards us, and lead us to behold Thy glory. Make us as pillars in Thy temple. Improving our time may we do good, numbering our days may we cherish heavenly wisdom. On the wing of faith may we soar heavenward. Hear us, Lord, as we call upon Thee ; make us to know Thy name, and in Thee to experience an unfading refuge. Against those who seek our hurt be our shield and buckler. Resigned to Thy will make us patient ; renew our hope. In peril and in perplexity may we lean upon Thee for help and succour.

In midst of dangers, fears, and death,
Thy goodness we 'll adore,
And praise Thee for Thy mercies past,
And humbly hope for more.

Our lives, if Thou preserv'st our lives,
Thy sacrifice shall be ;

And death, if death must be our doom,
Shall join our souls to Thee.

Hear us, O God, for the Redeemer's sake.
Amen.

XXII.

Wednesday Evening.*

This evening, O God, would we kneel at Thy footstool, and with thanksgiving approach Thy presence. Before Thee, our Lord and Maker, would we bow down reverently. As each morning we bless Thy name, so in the evening would we declare Thy faithfulness.

Source of life, and light, and blessing,
Raise our hearts to Thee above !
And be with us while expressing
All the wonders of Thy love.
Hear us, Father,
Darkness from our minds remove.

From the height of Thy sanctuary, O God, look upon us graciously. Of the least of Thy mercies we are unworthy, for we have greatly sinned. Our hearts are foward, our thoughts corrupt, our inclinations perverse. Lord, have mercy upon us ; and as a father pitith his

* Psalms xciv.-ciii.

children, have compassion upon us. For the Redeemer's sake forgive our iniquities and heal our backsliding.

Bless the Lord, O our souls ! let all that is within us bless Thy holy name. Great art Thou, O God ; Thou didst fashion the depths of ocean, the mountains are girded by Thy power. Even the nations which know Thee not own Thy sway. The heavens declare Thy righteousness, and the people behold Thy glory. O God, may we see Thee as the Lord God merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abundant in goodness.

May we consider how frail we are ; make us to know our end and the measure of our days. Be to us as the dew, or as the former and latter rain. Lord, remember us as the sheep of Thy pasture ; hide not Thy face from us, but take away our transgressions.

At the altar of evening prayer do we bless Thee. Lord, it is good for us to be here, and to bow before Thee reverently. With the curtain of the evening do Thou gently draw near us and encompass us. As we bring to Thee the offering of humble and contrite hearts, may we worship Thee in the beauty of holiness. Come to us, O God, and with hearts devoted to Thy service lead us to walk

acceptably before Thee. During the silence of the night be our shield and guardian, and in the morning lead us anew to consecrate ourselves to Thy service. For the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

XXIII.

*Thursday Morning.**

In the morning, O Lord, would we give thanks unto Thee.

Teach us, Almighty Lord, this day
Thy mercies to proclaim,
Teach us with heart and lip to pray
“All hallowed be Thy name.”
Light of the lonely pilgrim’s heart,
Star of the coming day !
Arise, and with Thy morning beams,
Chase all our griefs away.

Blessed, O God, are they that wait upon Thee and keep Thy commandments. How manifold are Thy works ! Thy glory is on the great deep, the earth is full of Thy riches. Long as we live shall we praise Thee, even while we have any being will we adore Thy name. Thou didst create us, and by Thy pro-

* Psalms civ.-cvi

vidence are we sustained. For our sakes doth the earth at Thy behest yield her increase. Thou enlargest our stores, covering the hills with flocks and the valleys with corn. Thou enablest us to go forth to our labour in the morning, and to the work of our hands dost yield a recompense. Lord, may we meditate on Thy goodness, and in the spirit of devotion bless Thee every moment of our lives. Remembering Thy marvellous works, and what Thou hast done, may we glory in Thy holy name, and seek Thy face continually. Pardon our offences, for we have greatly sinned ; we have cherished evil and committed iniquity. For one of a thousand transgressions we cannot answer Thee. But, Lord, in times past, Thou hast been very pitiful, and of tender mercy. Thine ancient people trusted in Thee, and Thou didst hear and answer them, even when they rebelled against Thee. Lord, Thou hast on One that is mighty laid our help. Blessed is He who has come in the name of the Lord to save us ; hosannah in the highest. O God, increase our faith, make us watchful and circumspect, upright and holy. Break our fetters, and let not the love of sin overwhelm us. Bursting the bands of wickedness may we rejoice in the freedom of Thy children.

Give Thine angels charge over us. Hide not Thy face from us, but clothe us with the garment of praise. As the dew refreshes the mown grass, do Thou by Thy Holy Spirit revive our souls. Let blessings flow to us from the Rock, and Thine abounding mercies from the heavens. Receiving Thy bounties with thanksgiving may we gratefully show forth Thy praise. Make us Thy witnesses to the careless, and Thy messengers to the unheeding. Beholding the good of Thy chosen remember us with Thy favour, and enable us to rejoice with Thy people, and to glory with Thine inheritance. Lord, save us from our enemies, and from the power of those that hate us. Be merciful to the poor, compassionate to the needy; be the orphans' stay and the strangers' shield. In Thee may the weak become strong, the sick find health, and the dying experience confidence and hope. Console the bereaved; comfort the mourner; relieve the oppressed; enlighten the ignorant; confirm the doubting. Bless the whole family of man. To Thy Son grant the heathen, that they may know Him, and experience His salvation. Watch over us during this day, and enable us in the evening again to renew our vows. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

XXIV.

*Thursday Evening.**

At the family altar again would we praise Thee, O God, and reverently adore Thy name. On Thee have we been continually dependent, and Thou hast sustained us. In the desert hast Thou sheltered us, and in the vale of sorrow comforted our hearts. When our hearts were bowed down, and help seemed far off, Thou didst loose our bands, and make us glad. Thou hast recompensed our labours. Through Thy goodness does the earth yield to us an increase, and bring forth fruit. Especially do we bless Thee for Thine inestimable mercy in Christ Jesus our Lord. Embracing the great salvation, may we become Thy faithful, loving, and obedient people. Through our great and eternal High Priest may we render to Thee the continual offering of thanksgiving.

By the claims which saints inherit
From Thy blood, for converts poured,
By Thy all-prevailing Spirit,
By Thy covenanted word ;
By Thy tears, in sorrow weeping
Over hardened sinners' doom ;
Take us to Thy gracious keeping,
Lead us to Thy glorious home.

* Psalms cvii.-cx.

Revive us, O Lord, with the dew of Thy grace, that we may walk before Thee acceptably. May we see Jesus as the Way, without which there is wandering; the Truth, without which there is error; the Light, without which there is darkness. With the blood of sprinkling cleanse our bodies, sanctify our souls, and baptize us into a holy obedience. With holiness upon our hearts may we consecrate our lives to Thy service. Admiring that grace whereby Thou hast elected us vessels of mercy, let us adore that incomprehensible love wherewith Thou hast loved us. Deliver us from temptation; rescue us from the snares of the ungodly. To our enemies may we render good for evil, for contempt or hatred love. May we comfort the sorrowful, relieve the distressed, and encourage on the way Sionward those who linger. To the doubting may we declare the message, that Thy mercy is unfailing. Valiant against sin, may we repel all false doctrine, and every opposition to Thy word and ordinances. Among the people may we praise and honour Thee. Make our home Thy dwelling, our hearts Thy temple. Lord, be near us in the night watches, and bring us to the light of another day. For the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

XXV.

Friday Morning.*

Again, O Lord, do we bow before Thee in grateful praise. With the return of a new day would we anew consecrate ourselves to Thy service. Thou art God, and we will praise Thee ; our fathers' God, and we will glorify Thy name together.

Heavenly Father, send Thy blessing,
On Thy children gathered here ;
May they all, Thy name confessing,
Be to Thee for ever dear.
May they be like Joseph, loving,
Dutiful, and chaste, and pure ;
And their faith, like David, proving,
Steadfast unto death endure.

Bless, O God, the labour of our hands, and grant that we may experience the comfort of those that fear Thee. Show us Thy favour, and establish our hearts with grace. Make us steadfast. If we are oppressed and bowed down, strengthen us and raise us up. Blessed, O Lord, are they that fear Thee, for Thou makest wise the simple. Open our eyes that we may see Thee, our ears that we may hear Thy voice. Bring us within the gates of right-

* Psalms cxi.-cxviii.

eousness. May we, in a pure and holy life, drink of Thy pleasures.

What shall we render unto Thee, O God, for Thy goodness, and the wonderful manifestation of Thy love and mercy ? For us hast Thou built up the waste places, and in Sion laid a sure foundation. Truly, O Lord, we are Thy servants, for Thou hast loosed our bonds. We will praise Thee in the household, and among the people declare Thy faithfulness. Continue to us, O God, those temporal comforts, of which we stand in need ; and withhold not from us Thy grace. Deliver us from perplexity and stumbling ; let us not be overcome of evil tidings, nor faint when trouble cometh. May we obey Thee in the storm as in the calm, and see Thee in adversity as when our cup is full. Convincing us of our weakness, may we not trust in our own strength or lean on our own understanding. Be to us as a present help ; govern our passions ; incline our wills ; rule our affections. Be mindful of us, good Lord ; place us in Thy pavilion, and preserve us from all evil. Even in the dark valley may we not fear, remembering that precious in Thy sight is the death of Thy people. And all we ask, O Lord, is for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

XXVI.

Friday Evening.*

Lord, accept our humble offerings, as this evening we draw nigh to Thee. Blessed are they who wait upon Thee; blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see Thee. Lord, we would seek Thee earnestly, and with the upright praise Thy holy name. We acknowledge our unworthiness; we have gone in the way of transgressors, our souls have cleaved to the dust, and there is no soundness in us. Be merciful to us, O God; remove us from every evil way; purge our hearts; purify our affections. Meditating on Thy holy word may we rejoice in Thy testimonies. Touching the Saviour's garment may we experience new life and energy. Forbid, Lord, that we should glory save in the Cross of our Redeemer. For His sake may we endure affliction without murmuring, adversity without complaint. May the Saviour be our portion, our inheritance, the rock of our defence. Not ashamed of our holy religion may we confess Him daily.

Lord, enlarge our hearts. Abjuring all self-seeking and covetousness may we be kindly

* Psalm cxix.

affectioned one to another, in honour preferring one another. Not murmuring because of evil-doers may we overcome evil with good. As Thou didst create and fashion us may we dedicate our bodies to Thy honour, our souls to Thy praise. Sanctify us, and make us as vessels consecrated to the Master's use. Quicken us after Thy loving-kindness ; be our refuge and our shield. Deliver us from iniquity, and direct our steps.

O Holy Spirit, come,
And Jesu's love declare ;
O tell us of our heavenly home,
And guide us safely there !

Leading us by refreshing streams show us Thy tender mercies. Lord, plead our cause. Morning and evening, even seven times a day, O God, would we worship Thee ; for Thou only art holy. Give us wisdom to trust when we cannot comprehend Thee, grace to believe when we cannot see Thee. Kissing the rod that smites us may we profit by Thy chastisement.

During the night watches, Lord, be with us. On our beds may we give thanks to Thee, and at midnight may our souls invoke Thy blessing. Lord, spread Thy wings over us, and hear us. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

XXVII.

*Saturday Morning.**

To Thee who art the Holy One, in whom
are the issues of life, and from whom cometh
every blessing, would we this morning turn
our eyes.

In sleep's serene oblivion laid,
We safely passed the silent night ;
Again we see the breaking shade,
We drink again the morning light.
New-born, we bless the waking hour,
Once more with awe rejoice to be ;
Our conscious souls resume their power,
And spring, our guardian God, to Thee.

Our help, Lord, is in Thee ; for by Thy pro-
vidence Thou sustaineſt every living thing.
Because Thy compassion fails not have we
risen up in peace and safety. Quicken us
according to Thy loving-kindness ; make Thy
face to shine upon us, and teach us Thy
statutes. Let Thy word be a lamp to our
feet, a light to our path. From the snares of
the Evil One and every perverse way graciously
deliver us. Obeying Thy commandments may
we order our conversation aright. Open our
lips, that we may declare Thy faithfulness.
Make the way of duty plain before us. Keep-

* Psalms cxix.-cxxi.

ing our hearts with all diligence may we watch them prayerfully. Not overcharged with the cares of this life may we sit at the feet of Jesus. May His Gospel be precious to us, more to be desired than gold. May we see Him as Emmanuel, God with us. May His precious blood, offered without spot or blemish, purge our consciences from dead works to serve Thee acceptably. Mortifying every sinful desire may we with moderation enjoy Thy blessings. Preserving us from sloth and negligence lead us to abound to Thy praise. May Thy word give us light. Meek and gentle and content with our lot, make us thankful for our blessings, and ready to distribute. Loving the fellowship of Thy people may we avoid converse with those who profane Thy holy name. Guided by Thy counsel may we experience in Thee strength and succour. Uphold our goings, and graciously encompass us. Be on our right hand and on our left, and preserve our souls. And grant, O God, that this day we may run into no kind of danger ; but that all our thoughts, words, and actions may be so ruled by Thee, that we may do what is well pleasing in Thy sight. Hear us, O God, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

XXVIII.

Saturday Evening.*

Lord, we would this evening bless Thee for Thy goodness.

For the mercies of the day,
For this rest upon our way,
Thanks to Thee alone be given,
Lord of earth, and King of Heaven.

Thou hast, O God, done great things for us, whereof we are glad. Thou hast watched over us from youth, shielding our childhood, guiding our inexperience, and delivering us in trouble. Each day do we experience fresh tokens of Thy Fatherly beneficence. And above all, O God, we bless Thee, that with the gifts of Thy providence Thou makest us to share in the riches of Thy grace. It is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that in the fulness of time Christ came to deliver us from our sins. But, O Lord, we have not listened to the gracious invitation. Distracted with many cares, and encumbered with worldly anxieties, we have neglected the one thing needful, and rejected the better part. The Fountain of living waters we have passed by, hewing out

* Psalms cxxii.-cxxvi.

for ourselves broken and empty cisterns. The cry has been raised the Bridegroom cometh, but we have slumbered and slept. Lord, in lowly humility would we bow before Thee, confessing our sins. From the depths would we call to Thee. O that our heads were waters, and our eyes fountains of tears, that day and night we might weep for our transgressions. Lord, redeem us from our iniquities ; cleanse us from our sins. Like the Lord Jesus may we be patient, humble, meek, and charitable. Built up in our holy faith may we be resigned to Thy will, obedient to Thy commandments, and joyful in Thine ordinances.

Of the talents entrusted to us make us faithful stewards. Preserve us against all indolence and slothfulness, and against every corrupt habit and evil inclination. Cleanse us from secret faults. With the seed of grace sown in our hearts may we therein bear fruit to Thy praise. Putting enmity between our souls and every unruly desire, may we henceforth serve Thee in newness and holiness of life. Watchman of Israel, who slumbereth not nor sleeps, to Thy care we now commit ourselves. May we in the night watches meditate upon Thee. Lord, hear us, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

THIRD WEEK.

XXIX.

*Sunday Morning.**

Lord, it is good for us in the morning of
Thy hallowed day to render thanks to Thee,
and reverently to celebrate Thy praise.

This is the day the Lord of life
Ascended to the skies ;
Our thoughts pursue the lofty theme,
And to the heaven arise.
Let no vain cares divert our mind
From this celestial road ;
Nor all the honours of the earth
Detain our souls from God.

May we be in the Spirit on the Lord's Day.
Send us help out of Sion, and as stones in Thy
spiritual temple build us up. We would enter
Thy house with the offering of gratitude, the
oblation of thanksgiving. In Thy tabernacle
would we kneel before Thee, and make sup-
plication. Lord, look upon us in our low
estate, and for Jesus' sake have mercy upon
us. Redeem us from our iniquities, and give

* Psalms cxxvii.-cxxxi.

us peace. May the Saviour dwell in us, and enable us to follow His steps. For His sake may we be ready to endure and to suffer; through Him may the path of duty become plain and easy. Lord, may we be kindly affectioned one to another, bearing each other's burdens, and ministering to each other's wants. Keep us on the watch tower; may we watch and pray, lest we fall into temptation. Deliver us from the snares of Satan, the allurements of the world, the deception of our own hearts. Repressing foolish levities may we resist every corrupt habit, and mortify every sinful inclination.

Thou art nigh, O God, to all who call upon Thee, fulfilling the desires of their hearts. Relying on Thy providence for the supply of our wants may we not place our confidence in man. Yet, honouring all men, may we as brethren love them, and as we have opportunity do them good. May all who wait upon Thee be refreshed and edified. Strengthen the weak; comfort the poor; make steadfast the wavering. With the garment of righteousness clothe Thy ministering servants. In their hands may Thy word be quick and powerful towards destroying error, and confirming and building up Thy people. Through a

preached gospel may the crooked be made straight, the rough places plain ; and let Thy glory be revealed, and all flesh see it together. For the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

xxx.

*Sunday Evening.**

Lord, let our prayer come before Thee as incense, and the lifting up of our hands as the evening sacrifice. With our hearts would we worship Thee, above everything that hath being would we praise Thy holy name. Having returned from Thy sanctuary, we would anew render to Thee thanks and praise. We thank Thee for Thine ordinances, and the privilege we possess of being one day in seven relieved from the duties and cares of life to hold communion with Thee, the Father of our spirits. By waiting upon Thee this day may we experience strength and grace. Lord, forgive our wandering thoughts, and grant that henceforth we may rejoice in Thy testimonies. Unworthy of the least of Thy mercies we have drunk up iniquity like water ; we

* Psalms cxxxvii., cxxxviii.

have done wickedly. When we looked for help there was none ; when in our extremity we exclaimed, Who will show us any good, refuge failed us. Lord, we have been brought very low ; our souls have been overwhelmed within us. In Thee have we found mercy, and Thou hast laid our help on One that is mighty. In the blessed name of Jesus we come before Thee now ; we would rejoice in the light of His holy Gospel. Amidst our innumerable sins and shortcomings may we rest on the Redeemer's righteousness, and trust in His salvation. Through grace may we hear His voice and do His will. Quicken us, good Lord ; give us the victory, and bind up our wounds. Under the beams of the Sun of Righteousness melt our hearts. Open our eyes, that we may behold Thy love, and comprehend Thy ways. Bestow upon us those temporal bounties which we need, and with Thy spiritual blessings satisfy us abundantly. Rescue us from the waters of affliction, and sustain us by the anchor of hope.

Bless, O God, the message of the Gospel this day proclaimed by Thy servants. Impress the truths of Thy word upon the young, and grant that those who have long waited upon Thee may be led to worship and serve Thee

yet more earnestly. Merciful Father, hear our closing petition.

Now that our holy day is done,
Our day so blest and bright ;
Lord, for the sake of Thy dear Son,
Vouchsafe us rest to-night.

And to Thy name, O Lord, be everlasting praise. Amen.

XXXI.

*Monday Morning.**

O God, our strength and salvation, this morning would we reverently call upon Thee, and devoutly adore Thy name. Because of Thy constant care we lie down and rise up in peace and safety. Whither can we go from Thy Spirit or flee from Thy presence ? If we ascend into the heavens, Thou art there in the majesty of Thy glory ; if we descend into hell, there art Thou, penetrating our secret. Or if in the distant parts of the earth we seek solitude and isolation, there should we still find Thee, an ever-present God. Thou art light in darkness, a lamp in the night, and amidst thick darkness as the sun in his strength.

* Psalms cxxxix.-cxli.

Continually, O Lord, we will praise Thee and glorify Thy name. By Thee we were created; we were fashioned by Thy hand. Fearfully and wonderfully hast Thou made us, forming our substance, clothing us with bones and sinews, and breathing into our nostrils the breath of life. On our souls didst Thou imprint Thine image. Even when man sinned and fell Thou didst not leave him to perish. At the grave's mouth, when our bones were scattered, Thou didst create us anew. Rescuing us from the destroyer Thou hast placed us upon a rock. How precious are the multitude of Thy mercies towards us; they are as the stars innumerable. Thou hast, O Lord, protected us on every side, and laid our help on One that is mighty. In Christ Jesus hast Thou given us victory over our enemies, and delivered us from our oppressors. In Him mercy and truth have met together, righteousness and peace have embraced. In the Lord Jesus beholding our King we would reverently touch His sceptre. Accepting Him as our Saviour we would bear His cross.

Jesus, as to Thy cross we flee,
And plead to be forgiven,
O let Thy life our pattern be,
And form our souls for heaven.

In the fountain of salvation, Lord, cleanse us. Search and try us, and if there be any evil inclination lurking within us, purge it away. Deliver us from the tempter, and from all who would ensnare our souls. Against the foward maintain our cause. Let not the wicked prevail against us, nor the slanderer afflict our soul. Eschewing ungodly companionship may we cherish the fellowship of the upright. By Thy hand lead us, and by Thy right hand sustain us. And to Thee, O God, through Jesus Christ, be honour and praise. Amen.

XXXII.

*Monday Evening.**

In the evening, O God, will we stretch out our hands to Thee, and make supplication. Each day will we bless Thee and celebrate Thy praise. Great art Thou, O Lord; Thy greatness is unsearchable. Righteous art Thou in all Thy ways, holy in all Thy works. Thou art nigh to all who call upon Thee in truth. Lord, we bless Thee for Thine abundant mercies. In infancy Thou didst nourish us

* Psalms cxlii.-cxlv.

and amidst the waywardness of youth Thou hast been our protector. When our souls were overwhelmed Thou didst cheer and comfort us. Thou hast rescued us in adversity, delivered us from sickness, and from the furnace of affliction brought us up in peace. When there was none to help Thou wert our defence. In the gift of a Saviour Thou hast supplied all our wants. In Jesus Christ Thou hast made known to us Thy power and the majesty of Thy kingdom. Lord, enable us to walk in His steps. As with dew Thou refreshest the pastures, so with grace do Thou refresh our souls. Quicken us, and make us to know Thy way.

This evening do we humbly confess our sins. Give us the grace of true repentance. May we be in bitterness for our sins, even as one is in bitterness for a firstborn. Lord, leave us not to perish, but forgive and pity us. In Christ Jesus may we see Thee as the Lord God merciful and gracious. And may a sense of Thy goodness lead us to deplore our estrangement from Thee, and evermore fervently to worship Thee.

Open Thine hand, O God, and with the blessings of this life grant us heavenly manna, and clothe us in the robe of the Redeemer's

righteousness. May our souls prosper and be in health. Bless all who are near and dear to us. May the young among us grow up as plants of Thy vineyard, and the aged prove faithful. May those who serve honour Thee as their Master in heaven, and those in authority so govern as being themselves the servants of Jesus Christ. Lord, give us rest during the night, and, with bodies and souls refreshed, enable us in the morning anew to experience Thy loving-kindness. For the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

XXXIII.

Tuesday Morning.*

Praise be to Thee, O God ; let angels and archangels in unceasing adoration celebrate Thy glory. Let the heavens and all their host, the stars in their courses, and the higher spheres, bless Thy holy name. Let the earth praise Thee, and the inhabitants thereof do homage at Thy footstool. Lord, we would in our hearts worship Thee, even as on our knees we humbly approach the throne of Thy holiness.

* Psalms cxlvii.-cl.

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning our songs shall rise to Thee ;
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!

Guard us, O God, from every evil way, and keep us in the right path. From the bondage of sin make us free. Removing the cloud which hangs between Thee and our souls let the light of heaven shine upon our path. Not in our own strength, which is weakness, but in Thy strength, which is all-powerful, may we fight the good fight of faith. By a pure and godly conversation may we be witnesses for Him who went about doing good. Abiding in the ship of salvation amidst storm and tempest may we not suffer shipwreck. God forbid that we should glory save in the Cross. As the Saviour's followers may we be animated by His Spirit. Like Him may we be meek and patient, gentle and forgiving. May we bear each other's burdens and minister to each other's wants. Discerning the beauty of holiness may we rejoice in the pleasures which are at Thy right hand. Help our infirmities ; make intercession for us. Remembering that time is short may we improve it ; and that it is uncertain may the close of life be ever present to our minds. As on a

journey may we have our loins girt and our lamps burning. Lord, be our staff in the wilderness, and in the dark valley our rod. During the day may we experience Thy care ; may Thy banner over us be love. And may these the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts find acceptance with Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

XXXIV.

Tuesday Evening.

Thou art great, O God, and greatly to be praised. Exalted far above the heavens, the earth is full of Thy glory. Lord, we would adore Thee as the Eternal Jehovah, the Mighty One whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and of whose dominion there shall be no end. Especially do we bless Thee as a God of love, the Father of all mercies. Thou art the God and Father of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to Thy will. Lord, may we see Thee in Christ Jesus, ready to

pardon, gracious and merciful, of great kindness, and slow to anger.

Fountain of all blessedness, we this evening come before Thee, confessing our sins. We have offended and done wickedly, and there is no soundness in us. Over our heads our iniquities have increased, and to the heavens have our trespasses grown up. We were as sheep going astray, but now would we return to the Shepherd and Bishop of our souls. Look upon us in Jesus Christ. Softening our hard hearts, subduing our perverse wills, and controlling our wayward desires, enable us to comprehend the breadth, and length, and depth, and height of the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge. As the wounded Israelites looked in faith towards the brazen serpent, and were healed, may we in faith look towards the Cross of our Redeemer. From the leprosy of sin, Lord, cleanse us in the Saviour's blood. Kindle within us the hallowed flame, make us vessels of Thy mercy, and build us up. Be to us as the dew, and we shall grow as the lily, and as Lebanon send forth roots. Let Thy beauty, Lord, be upon us, and establish the work of our hands.

We thank Thee, O God, for the innumerable comforts and blessings we have received

from Thy bountiful hand. All our life long hast Thou protected us. Thou hast enlarged us in distress, drawn us out of many waters, and prepared a table for us in the wilderness. With the voice of thanksgiving, would we declare Thy wondrous works, and make mention of Thy loving-kindness. Draw us to Thee, O God, so that we may follow after Thee, and in Thy commandments rejoice continually.

For Thy sustaining care during the day we bless Thee. Thou hast given us light and liberty, food and raiment, and in enabling us to fulfil our several duties hast comforted us. And now in the fervent words of Thy servant would we pray.

Saviour, breathe an evening blessing
Ere repose our spirits seal ;
Sin and want we come confessing,
Thou canst save, and Thou canst heal.

Though the night be dark and dreary,
Darkness cannot hide from Thee ;
Thou art He, who, never weary,
Watches where Thy people be.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us now and henceforth.
Amen.

XXXV.

Wednesday Morning.

Dweller in uncreated light, adorable Jehovah! we would on the morning of another day bless Thy name and celebrate Thy praise. With one of old would we extol Thee as the great, the mighty, and the terrible God. We bless Thee especially that Thou art good, and that Thy mercy is everlasting. Thou hast been our stronghold in the day of trouble, and when our hearts melted for heaviness, and we were brought low, Thou didst uplift our heads. In blessing hast Thou blest us, making our hands strong for labour, and causing our fields to yield their increase. Thankful and grateful for Thy providential goodness may we confidently rely upon Thee for the supply of all our wants.

Thou hast, O God, provided for us in the wilderness, and shown us that while here there is no continuing city, there is one to come. Through Jesus Christ hast Thou brought life and immortality to light. Lord, we bless Thee that our Redeemer liveth, that He hath fulfilled the law, made atonement,

and overcome the power of death. Through Him, even our blessed Saviour, may we come with holy confidence to Thy throne, that in the time of need we may obtain mercy and find grace. Following our Divine Master may we depart from evil and awake to righteousness. Choosing the best gifts may we cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in Thy fear. Sincere and without offence, may we abandon every evil way; and as He who has called us is holy, may we be holy in all manner of conversation. Do Thou that dwellest between the cherubim shine into our minds, that we may behold the light of Thy glory, as it shines in the face of Jesus Christ.

Sanctify us, good Lord, bestowing upon us Thy heavenly grace. Taking heed lest we fall may we rest on the arm of our Beloved. Harmless and without rebuke may we abstain from the appearance of evil, and prove as lights in the world by pure and godly lives. Write upon our foreheads holiness to the Lord, and lead us daily to bear witness that we are Thine. Breathe upon us, O God, and seal us to Thyself. With our souls and bodies consecrated to Thy service, build us up as Thy temple, Thy holy habitation. Graciously

enable us to set our affections on things above,
and hear us as we further pray.

Lord, let us live and act this day,
Still rising from the dead ;
Lord, make our spirits good, we pray,
Give us our daily bread.

Within our hearts, speak, Lord, speak on,
Our hearts alive to keep ;
Till the night comes, and labour done,
In Thee we fall asleep.

We ask these blessings for the Redeemer's
sake. Amen.

XXXVI.

Wednesday Evening.

Gracious Father, we come before Thee
this evening, and would ascribe unto Thee
glory and honour and blessing ; for Thou
hast created all things, and for Thy plea-
sure they are and were created. Day and
night without ceasing cherubim and sera-
phim celebrate Thy praise. Who is like
unto Thee, O Lord ; who among the sons of
the mighty may be compared unto Thee ?
Thou art merciful and full of compassion.
Thou fillest the hungry with good things,

and art kind even to the unthankful and evil. In the day of trouble Thou hast been our stronghold. In the desert hast Thou given us water from the rock, in sorrow hast comforted us, and when our souls melted for heaviness hast made us hear the voice of gladness. To us have the waters yielded a provision, the fields an increase. Lord, we bless Thee that the Divine Messenger has come to His temple, proclaiming liberty to the captives, and release to those who were bound. With healing under His wings has the Sun of Righteousness arisen upon us; the Day-star from on high hath visited us. Accept us in the Beloved. As Jesus died for us on the cross, may we die daily unto sin; as He rose from the grave, may we rise with Him to newness of life.

Jesus, who did for sinners die,
And pleadest now, as Priest on high,
May we Thy saving influence share,
Of cleansing blood, and priestly prayer.

Lord, may we put off the old man with His deeds, and put on the new man in the spirit of holiness. Anoint our eyes with eye-salve, that we may behold Thy love, and that without stumbling we may walk heavenward. As Thy chosen vessels may we in thought, in word,

and in deed acceptably serve Thee. Make us kind, patient, and compassionate, and from every guile, and all uncharitableness, graciously deliver us. From our necks breaking the yoke of sin, enable us to rejoice in the freedom of Thy ransomed people. In Christ Jesus may we become new creatures. As we stretch out our hands, and in our souls thirst after Thee, may we hear Thy voice saying, "Let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

Lord, increase the number of Thy faithful people, and in holiness and comfort build them up. May those who sit in darkness see the light of truth. As Thou hast upon us bestowed many precious privileges, may we rightly exercise and dutifully improve them. Sanctify to us our several avocations ; prosper our lawful undertakings. As we pray, "Lord, abide with us," may we in answer hear the Saviour's words, "Lo, I am with you alway." During the night watch over us, giving us rest of body and peace of mind, and refreshing us for the duties of another day. And graciously hear us, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

XXXVII.

Thursday Morning.

Holy, holy, holy art Thou, O God ; the whole earth is full of Thy glory. Thou art the blessed and only Potentate, the portion of Thy people, the inheritance of those that fear Thee. From Thee have we received seed time and harvest, summer and winter, the day for labour, and the night for rest. Thou hast enlarged our borders, replenished our stores, and made the outgoings of the morning and of the evening to rejoice over us.

New every morning is the love
Our wakening and uprising prove ;
Through sleep and darkness safely brought,
Restored to life, and power, and thought.
New mercies each returning day
Hover around us while we pray ;
New perils past, new sins forgiven,
New thoughts of God, new hopes of heaven.

Thou hast, O Lord, anointed us with oil, and led us into goodly pastures. Thou hast cared for us and comforted us. But we have been unthankful and evil. We are corrupt, and sinful, and perverse—a seed of evil-doers. *We come to Thee, O God, seeking mercy.*

We bend the knee before Thee, imploring pardon. We bless Thee for the great salvation that is in Christ Jesus. Beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of Him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace. In Jesus may we see our High Priest bearing our sins, our Intercessor entered within the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. Called by His name may we accept His blessed discipleship. Warring against those sins which caused His bitter sufferings on the cross, may we accept Him as our King, and take Him to reign over us.

Heavenly Father, make us earnest, faithful, diligent. Forgetting the things which are behind may we press forward towards those that are before, till we attain the prize of our high calling. In our heavenward journey may we not become faint or weary. While from Thy hand we receive the bread that perisheth, may we also partake of the bread of life. By cheerful and contented minds may we recommend to those around us the blessed religion in which we rejoice. As trees beside refreshing waters, and corn in the valley, may we bring forth fruit. Walking by faith and not by sight, may we be content to suffer reproach, trusting in Thee. God of all grace, may we

regard Thy service as perfect freedom, and patiently continue therein. In going forth to the duties of the day do Thou by Thy Spirit go with us. Keep our feet from stumbling and our eyes from tears. Not easily provoked may we take heed lest we speak unadvisedly with our lips. Till the shadows gather round and we seek rest in sleep may we serve Thee acceptably. And to Thy holy name be praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

XXXVIII.

Thursday Evening.

Devoutly, O Lord, would we render to Thee the evening sacrifice of praise. With new tokens of Thy love and mercy Thou hast brought us to the close of another day. In Thee we live. What shall we render to Thee for all Thy bounty, and the multitude of Thy loving-kindnesses? When we lay by the way-side wounded and bleeding, Thou didst raise us up and pour into our wounds the healing balm. Thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, and saved us by a great deliverance. Who is He that cometh from Edom with dyed garments

from Bozrah, He that is glorious in His apparel, travelling in the greatness of His strength? It is the Holy One who came in the name of the Lord to save us, and who, having died for our sins, rose from the dead, and is now at Thy right hand exalted as a Prince and a Saviour. To Him who so loved us, Lord, render us obedient and faithful. Clothe us in the robe of His righteousness. Sitting at His feet may we learn of Him. To His precepts yielding a ready and constant obedience may we redeem the time. Make us upright in our dealings, compassionate to the needy, and peaceable with all men. Let us be diligent in labour; give us moderation in enjoyment. Taking no thought for our life what we shall eat or what we shall drink, or for the body what we shall put on, may we seek first the kingdom of heaven, believing that all needful things will be added to us. Abounding in hope, may we experience peace. With the shield of faith protect us from the fiery darts of the Wicked One. Enter not into judgment with us, but refresh us from the streams of Thy bounty. Walking righteously, and speaking uprightly, may we eschew dissimulation and follow things honest in the sight of all men. Remembering that we are not our own,

but bought with a price, may we not act as men-pleasers, but glorify Thee in our souls, and in our bodies, which are Thine. Standing fast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, may we take heed lest we be again entangled with the yoke of bondage. Lord, sanctify us, making us perfect in every good work to do Thy will. May we buy of Thee gold tried in the fire, that we may be rich ; white raiment, that we may be clothed. As, O Lord, hitherto Thou hast given us songs in the night, we would severally close our evening prayers in the words of Thy servant—

Hold there Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies ;
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee,
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

For the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

XXXIX.

Friday Morning.

Unto Thee, the Father of Mercies, the Ancient of Days, would we again reverently draw near. Thy glory covers the heavens; the earth is full of Thy praise. Worthy art Thou, O Lord, to receive honour, and power,

and blessing ; for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created. Thou art the light and protector of Thy people, a wall of fire around them, and the glory in the midst of them. Thy tabernacle is with men, and Thou callest them by Thy name, even a royal priesthood, a chosen generation. Lord, Thou hast brought us out of darkness into a marvellous light ; teach us to walk in that light by following in the path of Thy commandments. By the star of grace conduct us to Bethlehem. At the Saviour's feet may we offer the incense of praise, the fruit of obedience, and holy living. Avoiding perverse disputings of men may we abound in those fruits of the Spirit, which are love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance. Not conformed to the world, but renewed through grace, may we present our bodies a living sacrifice, well pleasing in Thy sight, through Thine infinite goodness and mercy. May we put on Christ, being clothed in the robe of His righteousness. Planted together in the likeness of His death may we also be so planted in the likeness of His resurrection. Confessing the Saviour with our mouths may He be made to us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemp-

tion. Make us, Lord, obedient to Thy holy will. Like Noah may we walk with Thee ; like Job, fear Thee ; like the Prophets, praise Thee ; like the Apostles, publish abroad the good news of salvation. Leading quiet and peaceable lives may we exhort each other daily ; in holy conversation may we daily exercise ourselves. May we live soberly and righteously. Lord, redeem us from all iniquity, and purify us unto Thyself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

God of providence and of grace, help us reverently to come to Thee. We lament our apathy, carelessness, and unconcern, our proneness to err, and our liability to wander astray from Thy paths. More closely than heretofore may we lean on the arm of our Beloved. Not slothful in business make us fervent in spirit. Taking upon us the Saviour's yoke may we learn of Him. Breaking up our fallow ground may we sow in righteousness and reap in mercy. May we ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, that we may find rest for our souls. Approving things that are excellent may we grow in grace. Bless us in temporal things, and establish the work of our hands. Feed us with food convenient for us. As a family

cherish us ; may we prosper and be in health even as our souls prosper. Lord, further hear us, in the words of the pious hymnist—

Give us this day our daily food,
With all we need of promised good ;
And freely all our sins remit,
As we our debtors freely quit.
Defend us from the tempter's ways ;
Uphold when tried, when fallen raise ;
For power is Thine ; and boundless reign
In glory evermore. Amen.

XL.

Friday Evening.

This evening, Lord, would we together adore and magnify Thy name. Thou art the Holy One, the Lord of hosts is Thy name. The protector of Thy people Thou art a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, the strength of the poor, the relief of the forsaken. All Thy works praise Thee, and Thy saints bless Thee. But, Heavenly Father, we are unworthy of the least of Thy mercies, for both we and our fathers have sinned against Thee. We are vile, what shall we answer Thee ? Our iniquities have taken hold

upon us, and we cannot look up ; they are more numerous than the hairs of our heads. Against heaven and before Thee have we sinned, and we are no more worthy to be called Thy children. But, Lord, as Thou hast suffered us in our weakness, and spared us in our sins, be pleased to call us to repentance and amendment of life. O God, sanctify our desires, and purify our affections. Cleanse us in the Saviour's blood ; make us pure and holy. Strong in Thee, and in the power of ~~Thy~~ Thy might, may we resist temptation, and ~~be~~ be more than conquerors through Him that ~~s~~ loved us. Turning from lying vanities may ~~we~~ we serve Thee acceptably. To our faith ~~in~~ may we add virtue, knowledge, temperance ~~and~~, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity ; and so be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of Jesus Christ our Lord ~~and~~.

As we daily taste Thy goodness, may ~~we~~, O God, evening and morning, declare Thy faithfulness. Inflame our hearts with such love to Jesus, that nothing may seem to us too hard to do or to suffer for His sake. Not almost but altogether Christians may we follow our blessed Redeemer through good and bad report. Avoiding all profane jesting, and scoffing, and foolish talk, may our speech be

seasoned with salt. Set a watch before our mouths, keep the doors of our lips. May we imitate the Saviour in His profound humility, unwearied patience, lamb-like meekness, and perfect charity. With grace upon our hearts may we provide for the poor, comfort the desponding, and reclaim the erring. Lord, forbid that we should be high-minded or puffed up; but avoiding all vain glory and hypocrisy may we in lowness of mind esteem others better than ourselves. Partakers of the heavenly calling may we in all things show forth the power of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvellous light; and so may we comfort one another, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs, and exhorting each other daily.

Lord, give us rest this night, and fit and prepare us more and more for the rest which remaineth to Thy people.

We seek a rest beyond the skies,
In everlasting day;
Through floods and flames the passage lies,
But Jesus guards the way:
The swelling flood and raging flame
Hear and obey His word;
Then let us triumph in His name,
Our Saviour is the Lord.

Hear us for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

XLI.

Saturday Morning.

O God, our heavenly Father, we would this morning reverently come nigh to Thee. Every good and perfect gift cometh from Thee, the Father of lights. The earth is full of Thy mercy. To Thy people of old Thou didst give manna from heaven and water from the rock; and in every age hast Thou been the help and succour of those that feared Thee. Innumerable bounties and mercies have we received from Thy gracious hand. By Thee in helpless infancy were we nourished. Thou wert the guide of our youth, and amidst all our wanderings Thou hast even until now sustained and strengthened us. Relieving our anxieties and allaying our apprehensions Thou hast compassed us with Thy mercies, even with the blessings of heaven above and of the deep that lieth under. Thou hast increased our substance, replenished our store, and supplied our wants. And as we may not live by bread only, Thou hast given us everlasting consolation, and good hope through grace. Blessed be Thou, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to

His abundant mercy hath begotten us again to a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away.

Having received the Lord Jesus may we walk in Him. United to Him by faith may He dwell with us in all fulness. From Him, as the living vine, may we derive strength and nourishment. Dead with Him from the rudiments of the world may we rise with Him into newness of life. Lord, guard us against the deceitfulness of sin. May the seed of the word not be caught by the Wicked One out of our hearts, but therein bring forth fruit to Thy praise. Bearing the name of Christ may we depart from iniquity, and as Thy children shine as lights in the world. Lord, make us clean. With a live coal from the altar touch our lips, and purge away our sins. In Thy service may we continue patiently, and therein be steadfast and immovable. Lord, purify us to Thyself, and make us zealous of good works. Eschewing evil and seeking peace may we, through Jesus Christ, commit the keeping of our souls to Thee as a faithful Creator. Walking worthy of our high calling may we, by a pure and godly conversation, glorify Thy holy

name. Not weary in well-doing, but walking prudently before Thee, may we put to silence the ignorance of foolish men. Lord, may we rejoice in Thine ordinances. In a devoted and earnest spirit may we pray without ceasing. Searching Thy word daily may we receive its sacred truths into our hearts and practise them in our lives. Graciously watch over us this day; may we realise Thy presence and live to Thy glory.

God of the morning, at whose voice
The cheerful sun makes haste to rise,
And like a giant doth rejoice
To run his journey through the skies.
Oh, like the sun, may we fulfil
Th' appointed duties of the day;
With ready mind and active will
March on, and keep our heavenly way!

Hear us, O God, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

XLII.

Saturday Evening.

Adorable Jehovah, by whom kings reign, and princes decree justice, accept our humble homage, as we, who are but dust and ashes, venture to approach unto Thee. Lord, what are

we, and what are our people, that we should be privileged to draw nigh to Thee ? We are of unclean lips, a seed of evil-doers laden with iniquity. Following the devices and desires of our own hearts we have neglected Thine ordinances, disobeyed Thy commandments, and rebelled against Thy righteous authority. Amidst countless blessings we have been unthankful and evil. Nevertheless, O God, Thou hast sought us, and with a gracious invitation called us to Thy holy presence. In the words of Thine ancient servant hast Thou said to us, “ Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money ; come ye, buy and eat ; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money, and without price.”

Lord, incline us to hear Thy gracious message, and to rejoice in the treasures of Thy blessed word. Bring us to the Saviour, and in His blood, which cleanseth from all sin, wash and purify us. Set our affections on things above. Dispelling vain thoughts and corrupt desires inspire us by Thy heavenly grace. While there be many who say, who will show us any good, do Thou lift upon us the light of Thy countenance. Dedicating our hearts unto Thee may we bring forth fruit to Thy praise. Awaking to righteousness

may we walk as children of the light and of the day. Putting off the old man with his deeds may we put on the new man who is renewed after Thine own image.

Lord, may we see Thee in the face of Christ Jesus. Naming His name may we depart from all iniquity ; and with our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water, may we become as vessels of honour, prepared for the Master's use. Having no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness may we keep ourselves pure and holy. Justified by faith may we have peace with Thee, through our Lord Jesus Christ. Wretched and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked, we would through Jesus buy gold tried in the fire, and white raiment, that we may be clothed. Let our light break forth as the morning, Thy righteousness go before us, and Thy glory be our rereward. Speak the word, and heal us. Removing from our eyes the scales of corruption enable us to see clearly. May we renounce worldliness and worldly vanity, and feeling that our lives do not consist in the abundance of the things which we possess, may we fully realise that godliness with contentment is great gain. O God, we bless Thee

that Thou hast beneficently watched over us, and brought us to the close of another day, and of another week. Make us grateful and thankful to Thee for all Thy mercies, and grant that now and henceforth we may live to Thy glory.

What faith rejoices to believe
We long and pant to see ;
We would be absent from the flesh
And present, Lord, with Thee.
But still, or here or going hence,
To this our labours tend—
That, in Thy service spent, our life
May in Thy favour end.

During the night protect us, and grant us refreshing rest.

Before Thee, O Lord, we would remember the afflicted. Befriend the lonely sufferer, relieve the wounded spirit, and grant that those severely chastened may not faint at Thy rebuke. Mercifully reclaim the erring, enlighten the ignorant, awaken the careless, and confirm those who doubt or linger. Manifest Thyself towards each one of us, even as individually we need Thy help. Bring us to the light of Thy holy Sabbath, and on the day which Thou hast chosen, consecrate us anew to Thy heavenly service. And all, O God, we ask and hope for is in the name and for the sake of our blessed Saviour. Amen.

FOURTH WEEK.

XLIII.

Sunday Morning.

On the morning of Thy hallowed day, Lord, enable us with devoted hearts to make our requests known to Thee. Resting from the cares and duties of the week may we be in the Spirit on the Lord's Day. Holding the Sabbath as a delight, the holy of the Lord, and honourable, may we take heed lest by worldly thoughts or unsuitable occupations we should profane the day that Thou hast blest. Approaching Thee at the gate of heaven may we hear as music in our ears Thy hallowed salutation, "Peace be unto you."

We come before Thee, O God, in lowly penitence, confessing our sins. In poverty of soul we acknowledge the coldness of our prayers, the imperfection of our services, and the insincerity of our repentance. The whole head is sick, the whole heart is faint, and there is no soundness in us. Our iniquities have taken hold upon us ; they are in number more than the hairs of our heads. Against heaven

and before Thee have we sinned, and we are no more worthy to be called Thy children.

Lord, give us true repentance, and in a vow never to be broken, never to be forgotten, enable us to dedicate ourselves to Thy service. Rooted and grounded in love may we, in the daily exercise of faith, realise the Saviour's presence, and experience His sanctifying consolations. Quickened together with Christ may we no more be strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens of the saints, and of the household of God. Amending our doings, and looking unto Jesus, may we walk in the way of understanding. Dislodging vain thoughts and crooked imaginations may we live under the power of the world to come. Not leaving for a dying hour what should be done now may we give Thee our strength, our energies, and the best of our lives. As Israelites indeed, in whom there is no guile, may we ever walk before Thee ; and remembering the privileges and benefits Thou hast conferred, may we diligently improve them. With clearer views of Thy grace and deeper apprehensions of Thy mercy may we abandon the pleasures of sense, and press into Thy kingdom. In Thine ordinances may we experience the savour of good ointment.

Lord, may this be a high day to our souls. Bring us into Thy banqueting house, and let Thy banner over us be love. May Thy servant, who this day shall conduct our public devotions, be imbued with grace aright to discharge the duties of the sacred office. May his utterances be with power and unction. Preaching not himself but Christ crucified may he prove a faithful steward of Thy holy mysteries. Taking heed how we hear the Gospel message, may we receive it, not as the words of human wisdom, but as indeed the precious truth of Jesus Christ.

The blessings, Lord, be ours to share,
Thy resurrection morn has given ;
And make to-day Thy house of prayer,
None other than the gate of heaven.

May all Thy ministering servants be faithful unto Thee, and to the souls entrusted to their care. May their hands be made strong by the arms of the mighty God of Jacob. Under their earnest teaching, may Thy word be quick and powerful, and sharper than a two-edged sword, in overthrowing the strongholds of Satan, and in opening up a way for the advancement of the Redeemer's kingdom. Hear us, good Lord, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

XLIV.

Sunday Evening.

Blessed God, angels and archangels worship Thee, veiling their faces with their wings. Martyrs and saints adore Thee, ascribing to Thee honour, and glory, and blessing. The Church in glory, a great multitude which no man can number, out of every clime, and kindred, and people, in lofty hallelujahs resound Thy praise. In psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs have Thy people this day in ten thousand temples blest Thy name.

At the family altar, would we, O Lord, devoutly render to Thee our grateful thanks. We are Thy handiwork, and as Thine offspring Thou hast nourished us. In the wilderness Thou hast gathered us, and conducted us to goodly pastures. We were in bondage to sin, and by a mighty arm hast Thou delivered us, and hast given us water from the rock and manna from the heavens. The dayspring from on high hath visited us ; Thy word hath quickened us.

Lord, may Thy blessing accompany the services in which we have, within the courts of Thy house, been together engaged this day.

Forgive our wandering minds, our hardness of hearts, our unholy affections. O God, write not bitter things against us; in wrath remember mercy. Blot out as a cloud our sins, and as a thick cloud the multitude of our transgressions. Wayward and erring as we have been, let Thy word exercise an abiding influence upon our souls. To the duties of the week — may we go forth revived and strengthened. — Watchful against sin and the inroads of temptation may we resolve that whether in poverty or in adversity, in health or in sickness, we shall not wander astray from Thee. Earnest in giving heed to those things which concern our eternal peace, may we take heed lest we should let them slip. Acknowledging our Redeemer's sovereignty, and the blessedness of His salvation, may we be His sincere and earnest followers. Faithful and without guile may we be living epistles for Christ, known and read of all men. May a Sabbath spirit pervade our lives. In Thy service may we go on from strength to strength, even till in Sion we appear before Thee.

Gracious God, create us anew. Purify our desires, strengthen our faith. Arising from dead works may we serve Thee, the living God, with life, and power, and energy. Speak

the word, and we shall be healed ; anoint our eyes, and we shall see.

Bless, Lord, all who worshipped with us this day. May they be a people, who have Jesus in the midst of them, and know that He is Lord.

Yet one prayer more, and be it one,
In which both heaven and earth accord ;
Fulfil Thy promise to Thy Son,
Let all that breathe call Jesus Lord.

O God, hasten the time. Bless all who labour to sow the seed ; let them return rejoicingly bringing sheaves into Thy holy garner. Hasten the time ; let Thy way be known upon the earth, Thy saving health among the nations. Hear us, gracious Father, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

XLV.

Monday Morning.

Merciful God, we bless Thee that Thou hast brought us to the morning of another day, and given us new tokens of Thy Fatherly beneficence. In Thee we sleep and wake, for Thou sustaineſt us. Anew would we dedicate ourselves to Thy service. During

the day, varied as may be our experiences, may we each in rich measure realise Thy goodness. From sinful compliances with the world graciously shield us, and lead us with singleness of purpose to do Thy holy will. Unseduced by pleasure, undefiled by evil companionship, may we bless Thy name. From pride, vain glory, and hypocrisy mercifully deliver us. This day may we live very near to Thee, restraining wicked thoughts, repressing vain imaginings, and crucifying every sin.

Our lives, O God, are in Thy hand ; may we live in Thy fear. Feeling our weakness may we seek Thy strength ; our dependence, may we cleave to Him, who has by His perfect obedience justified the ungodly. Undisturbed by the cares and anxieties of life may we improve our opportunities, and hold fast our profession. By looking beyond time and sense may we not be overcome by vanity, or misled by human approbation. Not seeking honour from men may we regard all things as loss, so that we can win Christ, and be found in Him.

Patient under provocation, and unmoved by the prosperity of the ungodly, may we avoid murmuring, be content with our lot, and improve our privileges. Lord, increase our

zeal. Giving our tongues to speak, our ears to hear, our eyes to see, and our hands to work such things as may promote Thy glory, may we steadily pursue the path of holiness. In the great question, What must I do to be saved? interest us more and more. Removing from our hearts every worldly desire strengthen us in the inner man by Thy Holy Spirit. Through grace lighten our crosses and lessen our cares. In every trying situation may we consider how Jesus would have acted. Lord, sanctify to us our several employments, and grant that in fulfilling our duties we may do what is pleasing in Thy sight. Everywhere may we maintain Thy name, and in all companies and under all circumstances own Thy authority and declare Thy faithfulness.

Midst hourly cares may love present
Its incense to Thy throne;
And while the world our hands employs,
Our hearts be Thine alone.

Diligent in providing things needful for the present life may we lay up treasures in heaven; and whether we eat or drink, or whatsoever we do, may we do all to Thy glory.

Hear us, gracious Father, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

XLVI.

Monday Evening.

Almighty and everlasting Jehovah, enable us acceptably to approach Thee, and reverently to bless Thy holy name. For Thy power do we fear Thee, for Thy wisdom adore Thee, for Thy loving-kindness offer to Thee praise and thanksgiving. We have, O God, grievously offended Thee. Not acknowledging Thy bounty we have erred from Thy paths. Enjoying countless blessings we have, in Thy sight, been unthankful and evil. Sin has taken hold upon us, and other lords have held dominion over us. Our iniquities, like the wind, have carried us away.

We acknowledge our transgressions; our sin is ever before us. Wayward, stubborn, and rebellious, we have been lovers of pleasure, deceiving our own hearts. Lord, have mercy upon us; take away our sins and receive us graciously. Look upon us in the face of Him in whom Thou art well pleased, even our Saviour. May He who commanded the winds to cease and the waves to become still, calm the tempest in our hearts, and bring us peace. Through Jesus may the stream of grace enrich

our souls. Branches of the true Vine may we bring forth fruit to Thy praise. From the hidden cleft of the Rock may we sing the song of salvation and triumph. Clothed in the Redeemer's robe may we, in the spirit of our minds, be renewed and sanctified. May Christ crucified be the library into which we constantly repair, the oratory to which we daily resort. Setting the Saviour always before us may we ask of Thee reverently what Thou wouldest have us to do.

Lord, guide us in the Redeemer's steps. As for us He submitted to death, even the accursed death of the cross, may we die daily to sin and crucify the flesh. As He rose from the dead and ascended to the heavens may we rise from sin unto holiness, and, renouncing the corruptible pleasures of time, seek, through Him, for an inheritance incorruptible and unfading.

Lord, set a watch before our mouths ; keep the doors of our lips. With supreme love to Thee may we live peaceably with all men. As a family may we cherish affection, friendship, and mutual respect. May we help one another and encourage one another in the journey heavenward. And now, O God, we pray Thee to watch over us during the silence

of the night, and to extend Thy care over us when we cannot take care of ourselves. In the words of Thy servant graciously hear us.

Lord of truth and life immortal !
Draw us to that shining way ;
Lift for us the narrow portal ;
Hold us ever lest we stray.
Give us hearts to scorn all pleasure
That would tempt our steps aside ;
Be thy smiles our single treasure,
And Thy blessed voice our guide.

For the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

XLVII.

Tuesday Morning.

Gracious God, Thou hast in the night sea sheltered and protected us, and we would morning consecrate to Thee anew the] which Thou hast spared.

Father of life and light,
To Thee our songs we raise ;
For all the mercies of the night
Accept our humble praise.
Thy Providential care
Our morning board has spread ;
Oh, may our souls Thy favour share
And eat the living bread.

Receiving Thy temporal bounties may we, O Lord, seek the heavenly manna. May we see the Saviour seated with the lowly that He might teach them, and distributing bread to the hungry that He might lead them to partake of spiritual food, even of that which is meat indeed and drink indeed. Lord, evermore give us spiritual food; feed us with the bread of life. Hearing the Saviour's invitation, "Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out," may we come to Him with loving faith and in holy obedience. From wandering in the wilderness, hungry and thirsty, may we imbibe His spirit and drink in the stream of His grace. In His name may we rejoice, even as in fragrant ointment poured forth. In His wounds may we hide our sins, and in His peace-speaking blood be cleansed from our leprosy. Resting on His promises may we trace His footsteps in the deep, and on the cloud descry His pledge of mercy. Taking His hand may we walk in His strength, not only at the temple gate, but in our homes and in our journeyings. Knowing in whom we believe may we have abundant confidence that He will keep what we have committed to Him, and will bring us, both in soul and body, into enduring habitations.

shed His blood for our sakes. Imbue us, blessed Father, with the spirit of Thy grace. In the blood of Jesus, washing our robes, make us pure and clean. As members of Christ may we have no concord with Belial. Crucifying the flesh may we subdue every corrupt habit and evil inclination; avoiding the love of ease may we actively wait upon Thee. Remembering that Thine eye is continually upon us may we be circumspect and watchful. Not overcharged with the cares of this life may we in all spiritual concerns be fervent, sincere, and zealous. May we pray without ceasing, and pursuing our heavenly course without weariness, become fruitful in all holy obedience. Lord, enlighten our minds, strengthen our resolutions, confirm our hopes. Knit together as a family by earthly ties, unite us in the bonds of the spiritual covenant.

O God of families, we own
Thy constant care; before Thy throne
We humbly bow the suppliant knee,
And pay our evening vows to Thee.

Edifying one another in love may we encourage each other in every good work. During the defenceless hours of sleep protect and shelter us, and bring us refreshed and strengthened to the light and duties of a new

than by faith, we have been inclined, like Esau, to sell our birthright ; we have fallen into the snare of evil counsellors, and permitted our hearts to deceive and lead us astray. We have risen up early, and sat up late ; but while actively concerned about many things, we have neglected the one thing needful. Even when we steadily worshipped Thee our affections have been lukewarm, even cold. In our hearts has the world with its business, its policy, its interests, and its pleasures, occupied that place which belonged to Thee. Lord, we are vile ; we would abhor ourselves, and repent in dust and ashes.

Thou desirest not, merciful Father, that we should perish in our sins, but rather that we turn from our wickedness and live. O God, open our eyes, and bring us from darkness into light, and from the power of Satan into the liberty of Thy children. As on Thy promises we cast our guilty souls, may we hear Thy voice saying, "I, even I, am He that blotteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and will not remember thy sins." Through Thine infinite mercy guide us, O God, into all truth. Leading us to do Thy will may we surrender ourselves to that blessed Saviour, who, on the accursed tree,

For Jesus' sake, remember not against us our numerous transgressions. Entering the dark chambers of our hearts may the Holy Spirit enlighten and sanctify us. Delivering us from the craft and subtleties of the world, Lord, enable us with singleness of purpose to serve and worship Thee. From indolence, corrupt desires, and every evil habit, graciously deliver us. Extend Thy hand and draw us unto Thee, for none, O God, can come to Thee except Thou drawest them. Guard us from the assaults of the tempter, and in the path of Thy commandments keep us steadfast. Repressing in our hearts anger and malice, make us patient, gentle, and forgiving. Admiring the grace whereby Thou hast chosen us vessels of mercy, let us adore the incomprehensible love wherewith Thou hast loved us. Show us Thy way ; lead us in Thy truth, and enable us to glorify Thee, not with our lips only, but in our lives. In Thine ordinances may we rejoice greatly. Earnest in prayer may we diligently search Thy word ; and may that wisdom which guided the Apostles, and has through many generations comforted Thy people, sustain and govern us in the house of our pilgrimage.

As, O Lord, we have begun this day in Thy

service, may we pass through it in Thy strength and end it in Thy fear. By none of us may this day be spent in idleness. May those among us specially called on to labour work heartily, as unto Thee, not unto men. Whether we are employed at home, or conduct business abroad, may we remember that Thou, God, seest us. This day may we bear our burdens with patience, our crosses with composure. As a household may no bitter root spring up among us, but may we continue to be knit together in Christian fellowship. May we walk before Thee acceptably, even as the disciples of Him who went about doing good. Hear us, O God, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

L.

Wednesday Evening.

Thou art great, O Lord God, for there is none like Thee, neither is there any God beside Thee. Thy throne is in heaven, and Thou art ruler over all the earth. Yet Thou condescendest to dwell with the spirit of the humble, even with those as are of contrite hearts. This evening would we render to

Thee the oblation of gratitude, the sacrifice of thanksgiving.

O Lord, another day has flown,
And we, a feeble band,
Are met once more before Thy throne,
To bless Thy fostering hand.

O still restore our wandering feet,
And still direct our way,
Till worlds shall fail, and faith shall greet,
The dawn of endless day.

With adoring reverence, lowly contrition, sincere repentance, and believing boldness, do we make our requests known to Thee. Gracious Father, bring us to the fountain of salvation; wash and cleanse us in the blood of the Lamb. Write Thy law upon our hearts, and actuate us by a holy obedience. In the blessed Redeemer may we experience a shadow from the heat, a succour from the tempest, light in darkness, joy in sorrow, strength in weakness. May He be our Physician to heal us, our Counsellor to plead for us, our King to govern us, and our Brother to sympathise with and comfort us. As the Sun of Righteousness may He remove our doubts, enlighten our understandings, and guide us into all truth. Bearing the sceptre of His grace, and placing our souls under His

protection, may we walk in His steps. May His cross be the centre of our affections, and in His atoning sacrifice may we rest our hope. In contending with our spiritual enemies may we go forth in His strength, and ascribing victory to His grace may we on our return be met by Him and receive His blessing. Putting on Christ, in love, peace, gentleness, faith, meekness, and temperance, we would confess to Him every hidden grief, every secret sorrow, and every guilty fear.

Sanctify us, O God, by Thy Holy Spirit. Inflame our cold affections, upraise our downcast souls, make our faith steadfast. Penetrated with Thy love, and vital with Thy grace, may we in blessed hope anticipate the period when perfect instead of fallen, and immortal instead of dying, we shall with Thy ransomed people behold Thy glory. Keep us outwardly in our bodies, inwardly in our souls. Avoiding the intercourse of the ungodly may we out of pure hearts adorn the doctrine we profess by meek and wholesome words. Forgive us wherein we have not this day tried to serve Thee. As we lie down to rest we would repose on Thy mercy. May Thine eye, which never slumbers nor sleeps, watch over us. Guard us from the sleep of sin, and

grant that every evil thought may slumber within us. The Lord bless and keep us ; the Lord make His face to shine upon us, and be gracious to us. Bring us, O God, to the light of a new day ; and evermore enlighten us by the inner sunshine of Thy presence. For the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

LI.

Thursday Morning.

God of grace and Father of mercies, Thou art the light of every heart that sees Thee, the life of every soul that loves Thee. Thy name be hallowed ; let all Thy creatures adore and praise Thy holy name. In simplicity and earnest faith would we approach the throne of Thy holiness. Not trusting in outward privileges do we come, but in lowly humility, and with the confidence of children. Lord, enkindle our affections, and with fire from Thine altar consume in our hearts the root of sin.

Hear us, O God, as before Thee we acknowledge our many offences, and confess our deep unworthiness. Wayward and perverse

we have ploughed wickedness and sown iniquity. Thou hast called us, but we have not answered Thee. To us hast Thou opened a city of refuge, but we have fled into the wilderness. Despising Thy counsels, and rejecting Thy warnings, we have kicked against the pricks; with the cords of our own sins have we become bound.

Lord, we bless Thee that Thou hast not left us to perish, but in deserved wrath hast remembered mercy. Thou hast said, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin." Assured by this gracious promise, and resting on the merits of our Holy Redeemer, we would entreat Thy pardon. Restraining our appetites, and enabling us to deny ourselves to every sinful gratification, grant us, O Lord, a living and enduring faith. May we see Jesus as our great High Priest, who, bearing our nature, has passed into the heavens, having procured eternal redemption for us. Embracing the great salvation which He has purchased may we lead lives conforming to His blessed example. To Him we would open our hearts, that, purified in His blood,

we may walk before Thee in newness and holiness of life. Lord Jesus, imbue us with Thy Spirit, leading us as Thy disciples to adorn Thy holy doctrine. On the altar of gratitude may we sacrifice every animosity, and forgive all who have offended us, even as Thou hast freely forgiven us. Teach us, blessed Jesus, to know our weakness, that we may rejoice in Thy strength. Animate us by lowly, penitent, and obedient hearts. By the sanctifying influences of the Holy Spirit enlighten and purify us.

Celestial Visitant, herald of peace,
Who com'st when the waters of trouble decrease,
O say to our hearts that the tempest of wrath
No longer o'erhangs and endangers our path.
O come with the olive branch, Spirit of Love,
With Thy train of sweet graces descend from above.

Assist us, O God, in discharging all the ~~the~~ duties this day incumbent upon us. Direct ~~the~~ our plans, control our purposes, rule ~~our~~ actions. Whether we are silent or in conversation, in society or in retirement, at home or abroad, be our Comforter, our Counsellor, our ever-present Guide. And to Thee, Heavenly Father, do we ascribe a ~~the~~ power and glory, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

LII.

Thursday Evening.

Gracious God, we bless Thee for Thine unspeakable condescension in again at the household altar permitting us in prayer and thanksgiving to approach Thy throne. As we cannot weary Thee by the number or frequency of our prayers, forbid that we should ever regard Thy ways as heaviness, or make Only a form of godliness. Lord, may we worship Thee, who art a Spirit, in spirit and in truth. Open our eyes, that we may see the wonders of Thy law; may Thy knowledge rejoice our hearts. This evening may we set up our Ebenezer, and say, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." We bless Thee that Thou hast protected us during the day. Shielding us from danger Thou hast given us strength to labour, nourished us by refreshing food, and bestowed on us friends to comfort us. Thankful and grateful for all Thy goodness we entreat Thee, O God, to deliver us from sin and the love of pleasure. Turn away our eyes from beholding vanity, heal our backsliding, and love us freely. Unloose our bands, and grant us the glorious liberty of Thy people. May

LIII.

Friday Morning.

Father of mercies and Fountain of all goodness, we would, in the morning, wait upon Thee and renew our vows.

Lord, for the mercies of the night
Our humble thanks we pay
And unto Thee we dedicate
The first-fruits of the day.
Let this day praise Thee, O our God,
And so let all our days;
And O let our eternal day
Be Thine eternal praise.

We bless Thee, Lord, for Thy sparing mercy. Thou hast prolonged our lives, and art daily providing us with food and raiment, and the other blessings of this life. To Thee are we indebted for health, family affection and friendship, and for all the means whereby in life Thou dost comfort us. Make us, O God, more deeply sensible of our obligations, more earnest in serving and worshipping Thee. Enoch-like may we walk with Thee, like Jacob hold Thee fast, and like Job repose our unwavering confidence in Thee. Lord, breathe into our hearts, that we may with holy

fervour praise Thee. Bringing our purposes into actions, let our actions become habits of loving and grateful obedience. Convincing us of our weakness and folly, let us not lean on our own understanding, but seek Thy guidance. Restraining our appetites and bridling our tongues, incline us to honour Thee in conversation. As every moment testifies to Thy love may we serve Thee steadfastly.

Lord, we bless Thee for that greatest of all Thy gifts—the Saviour. When there was none to pity, Thou didst pity us; Thy hand delivered us; Thy word became flesh, and dwelt among us. Lord Jesus, we bless Thee for Thy holy incarnation, Thy heavenly teaching, Thy spotless example, Thy bitter passion. In Thy death we behold our life; in Thy cross, our crown. By Thine obedience and death Thou hast fulfilled the law which we had broken; and by Thy glorious resurrection and ascension, raised and purified and borne to heaven that nature which we had defiled. Holy Saviour, Thou art our peace, our sure foundation, our everlasting refuge. Through the light of Thy holy Gospel we would be filled with Thy beams and rejoice in Thy righteousness. Gracious Kinsman, we would follow Thee to our Father's house. Blessed Redeemer,

we would cling to the skirts of Thy garment. Great Physician, speak the word, and the bones which sin has broken will rejoice. Out of Thy fulness supply our spiritual wants, and grant that, growing in grace, our souls may be nourished into life everlasting. Build us up in our holy faith.

For the temple of Thy grace, Lord, fit us in the school of Thy providence. In adversity may we be patient; in prosperity, faithful; in affliction, resigned; under oppression, forbearing. Be with each of us during the day on which we have entered, and bless us in our going out and coming in. Prosper our lawful undertakings; guard us from temptation; strengthen us for duty. Compassionate to the poor, indulgent to the erring, and hospitable to the stranger, may we be courteous— and gentle to all. Hallow our joys; sweeten— our sorrows; relieve our cares. Stablish our hearts. Make us kindly affectioned one to another, in brotherly love; in honour preferring one another. Watch over us, Good Shepherd of Israel, and grant that, as we live by Thy bounty, we may be ever devoted to Thy praise. For the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

LIV.

Friday Evening.

Almighty God, whose eyes are in every place beholding the evil and the good, help us to draw near to Thee. We bless Thee that we have a throne of grace to which we can constantly repair, and that the hearer Thou art also the answerer of prayer. But wherewith, Lord, shall we come into Thy presence ; and what offering shall we place on Thine altar ? We are altogether unclean ; there is no soundness in us. We have sinned against light, and the tenderest manifestations of Thy love and goodness. Many golden opportunities of serving Thee have we neglected ; we have despised Thy counsel. Abusing our privileges we have resisted Thy warnings, and set at nought Thy reproof. Lord, we have destroyed ourselves, yet in Thee is our help found.

We come to Thee, O God, this evening, confessing our sins, and entreating Thy pardon. Not in our own name do we come, but in the name of Jesus. Through Him, laying hold on the horns of the altar, we would seek the eternal refuge. Blessed Saviour, spare us ; spare Thy people, whom Thou hast redeemed

with Thy most precious blood; and be not angry with us for ever. By the beams of Thy love scatter our darkness. Be to us a river in the desert, and as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. Blot out our sins. By the application of Thy blood sprinkle us from an evil conscience. From our spiritual enemies defend us, O Christ. Enable us with the heart to believe unto righteousness, and with the mouth to make confession unto salvation. Sanctified by the Holy Spirit may we curb our desires, and restrain every unhallowed passion. Swift to hear, slow to speak, and slow to wrath, may we abjure malice and guile, and with love and gentleness accept the truths of Thy holy word. Searching the Scriptures daily, may we mark, learn, and inwardly digest them. Lord, defend us from our besetting sins, whether the love of pleasure, or self-will, or pride, or any other filthiness of the flesh or spirit. Rescuing us from negligence and ignorance, let not the opinion of the world or any weak fears deter us from obeying Thy will. Arm us against temptation, and in the path of duty lead us graciously. Abstaining from all appearance of evil may we do that which is pleasing in Thy sight. Mortify, O God, our sinful affections, and guide us unto

all truth. Not minding high things, but descending to men of low estate, may we visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and keep ourselves unspotted from the world. Abounding in love to Thee may our charity towards our brethren increase daily. On Thee may we cast all our cares, and in all our undertakings seek Thy counsel. Thanking Thee for Thy past and present bounties may we in Thy blessed promises rejoice exceedingly. Confessing that we are strangers and pilgrims upon earth, may we seek a better country, even an heavenly. Remove, O God, from our hearts all that is impure and unholy ; and as Thy people conduct us in the way of salvation.

May the grace of Christ our Saviour,
And the Father's boundless love,
With the Holy Spirit's favour,
Rest upon us from above !
Thus may we abide in union
With each other and the Lord ;
And possess in sweet communion,
Joys which earth cannot afford.

During the returning night, Lord, grant us refreshing rest, and bring us in health and comfort to the light of another day. Graciously hear our prayers, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

LV.

Saturday Morning.

O Lord, our heavenly Father, as Thou hast formed us for Thyself help us to show forth Thy praise. Fountain of life and light, grant us with the light of another day new manifestations of Thy grace.

“Arise and shine,” O Lord, ‘tis Thy command ;
Impart Thy strength, stretch forth Thine helping hand ;
Thou, Saviour, giv’st the light ; that light, when given,
Maintain, O Lord, and fit our souls for heaven.

Amidst the darkness of our hearts be to us in Christ Jesus as the bright and morning star. By His grace enlighten our understandings and revive our souls. Restraining us from the evils and follies into which we are prone to fall, may we this day be witnesses for Christ by pure and holy living. Should our affairs prosper, hallow our success ; should we suffer adversity, lead us to see Thee in the cloud as well as in the sunlight. Diligent in business and fervent in spirit may we walk in the path of Thy commandments. Remembering that in the midst of life we are in death may we give Thee the best of our thoughts, the best of our

lives. Feeling that Thy pure eye is upon us, and that Thou triest us not by the judgment of man, may we love Thee with pure hearts unfeigned. May our souls be stirred up to praise Thee.

Lord, give us true repentance. We deplore our lack of zeal, our lack of faith, the coldness and deadness of our hearts. Vain and worldly thoughts have possessed us ; our worship has been formal ; and while we professed to humble ourselves, spiritual pride has laid hold upon us. O God, sanctify us and make us pure. Cleanse us from our sins. Delivering us from the horrible pit and out of the miry clay place our feet upon the Rock of Ages, and keep us steadfast.

Holy Father, who hast in the resurrection of our blessed Redeemer rescued us from the fear of death, enable us to die daily unto sin, and to live as the heirs of promise. Adopting us into Thy family seal and confirm our hearts. Increasing our faith enable us more and more earnestly to find a supply for all our wants in the Saviour's fulness. Hiding our lives in Him may we have an abundant confidence that when He who is our life shall appear, we also shall appear with Him in glory.

Lord, be with us during the day. Go with

us where we go, dwell with us where we dwell. Not following the multitude to do evil may we maintain Thy cause both in speech and behaviour. Overcoming evil with good may we meet injury with forgiveness, frowardness by patience. God of Bethel, dwell with us as a household, enabling us in holy intercourse to prepare for uninterrupted fellowship in the realms of eternal day. Hear us, merciful God, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

LVI.

Saturday Evening.

Mighty God and Shepherd of Israel, wh— under Thy fatherly protection and graciou— guidance has brought us nigh to the close o f another week, enable us now to render t O Thee the incense of grateful hearts. We are, O Lord, monuments of Thy patience, forbearance, and mercy. Our way might have been hedged with thorns, but Thou hast led us by the green pastures, and beside the still waters. Thou hast blessed us with many privileges, and with innumerable acts of loving-kindness. Every morning have we shared Thy favour,

and every evening experienced Thy faithfulness. Thou hast filled our cup, relieved us in trouble, delivered us in adversity, and in sickness been our physician. In mercy rejoicing against judgment Thou hast spared us in our sins.

Lord, hear us, as in deep humility we acknowledge our numerous provocations. Vile, and polluted, and unclean, we are most miserable offenders, and cannot answer Thee. The whole head is sick, the whole heart is faint, and there is no soundness in us. A guilty insensibility has laid hold upon us, and as Thou hast said, "wash, and be clean," we have not answered Thee.

Lord, have mercy upon us, and hear our prayers. Laying down the weapons of revolt we would turn from our iniquities, and unfeignedly serve Thee. Succour us, we beseech Thee, delivering us from the snares of Satan and the waywardness of our own hearts. With deep contrition and godly sorrow for sin lead us to present our bodies unto Thee as living sacrifices. On our hearts inscribing Thy law grant that we may bring forth fruit to Thy praise. Establishing Thy covenant with us, and transforming us more and more into the image of Thy Son, grant that at length we

may be presented faultless before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy.

Lord, bless to us the means of grace. May we use our opportunities, occupy our talents, and improve our privileges. Warn us in Thy providence; teach us by Thy word. With the progress of time bring us nearer to Thyself. At the close of another week impress us with the feeling that time is fleeting, and as darkness returns, lead us to remember that the night cometh when no man can work. During the approaching night be the guardian of our unconscious hours. And whether we wake or sleep, grant that we may live together with Thee. Refreshing us with needful rest bring us to the light of Thy blessed Sabbath. And conducting us to Thy sanctuary may we there unite with Thy people in holy worship.

Lord, let us to Thy gates repair,
To hear the gladdening sound;
That we may find salvation there,
While yet it may be found.
And there increase our love for Thee,
That all our future days
May one continued Sabbath be,
Of gratitude and praise.

Hear us, Heavenly Father, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

OCCASIONAL PRAYERS.

LVII.

Christmas Day.

On this sacred anniversary would we, Heavenly Father, with deepest gratitude, magnify and adore Thy holy name. Behold, what manner of love hast Thou bestowed upon us, that we might be called Thy children! Celebrating Thy wonderful condescension did the angels this day proclaim a Saviour born. For us this day was the Son of the Blessed born in a stable and laid in a manger. For us Thou didst Thyself become manifest in the flesh—the mighty God in the likeness of a little child. For us did the Holy One lay aside His royal robes, and, in swaddling bands, become Emmanuel, God with us. With the devoted shepherds would we render worship at His feet; with the waiting Simeon, greet Him in the temple; with the adoring Mary, acknowledge Him as our Lord.

Contemplating the birth at Bethlehem may we, through the Holy Spirit, be ourselves born anew. With the word of Christ dwelling

in us richly in all wisdom may our conversation become the Gospel. Holy Jesus, touching Thy garment may we experience a healing virtue. Having our eyes anointed with eye-salve may we behold Thy righteousness. Touch our lips, and they shall praise Thee. Depressed by sin and laden with guilt may we hear Thy voice saying to us, "Thy sins are ~~all~~ forgiven thee."

Lord Jesus, we bless Thee that, rich in the ~~all~~ glory of the universe, Thou didst for our sake ~~all~~ become poor. For us didst Thou become ~~all~~ little lower than the angels and obedient unto death. And being found in fashion as a man ~~and~~, and having in Thy precious body on the accursed tree fulfilled the law and made atonement, Thou hast ascended into the holy place, our everlasting High Priest. Holy Saviour, Thou knowest our weaknesses, and our frailties are not hid from Thee; look upon us as a Brother, and grant us Thy peace. With the blessed company who exclaim in holy rapture, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain," may we ever ascribe unto Thee power, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

Prince of Peace, control our will;
Bid our struggling hearts be still;

Bid our fears and doubtings cease ;
Hush our spirits into peace.

Lord, bless us as a family, and grant that, united as we are by earthly ties, we may be made one in the bonds of Jesus Christ. Bless our relatives and friends ; may their prayers and ours come before Thee at the mercy-seat.

Bless the Church universal—all denominations of Christian believers. Be gracious and compassionate towards the whole family of man. Let the Saviour reign everywhere, and His dominion extend from shore to shore, even from the river to the end of the earth. And to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all praise and glory, now and ever. Amen.

LVIII.

First Day of the Year.

Unto Thee who art Alpha and Omega, the first and the last, would we reverently draw near. From everlasting to everlasting, Thou art God ; Thy dominion endureth throughout all generations. Of this world the fashion passeth away and perisheth ; but, Lord, Thou art without variableness, the same yesterday,

and to-day, and for ever. Adoring Thy gracious providence in sparing us through the past year, we would reverently worship at Thy footstool. For our creation, preservation, and all the bounties of this life, we bless Thee. Our Protector in infancy, Thou didst shield our youth, and hast been the stay of our riper years. On the first day of a new year would we by solemn dedication renew our covenant with Thee, consecrating to Thy holy service the lives which Thou hast prolonged. As in the year that is past we have experienced numerous manifestations of Thy favour, may we by devoted and obedient hearts prepare for further tokens of Thy love. Alas, O Lord, we have to deplore opportunities neglected, gifts unimproved, and privileges abused. As the barren fig-tree we have cumbered the ground, yet year after year Thou hast mercifully spared us. Unceasing has been Thy forbearance, boundless Thy compassion. Lord, forsake us not now, but help us to put our house in order, and with renewed ardour to wait upon Thee. Resolving to redeem lost time and wasted opportunities, may we with the departed year banish worldliness from our souls, and with pure and loving hearts devote ourselves to Thy service.

At Thy feet, our God and Father,
Who has blest us all our days,
We with grateful hearts would gather,
To begin the year with praise.
Praise for light so brightly shining
On our steps from heaven above ;
Praise for mercies daily twining
Round in golden cords of love.

Upon our hearts deepen, O Lord, a sense of our obligations, and to serious contemplation solemnise our minds. Seeing that here we have no continuing city, may we seek for one to come. May a remembrance of the shortness of time and the nearness of eternity guide and influence us. As we cannot live or die to ourselves, may we through grace seek to live to Thy glory, and for the benefit of others. Walking in the light of Thy holy commandments may we lead those around us to fear and honour Thee. Witnesses for the Holy One may the Saviour's inviting voice be heard not from our lips only, but in the conduct of our lives. Whether in labour or in rest, in health or in sickness, in prosperity or adversity, may we be Thy people, even as the heritage which Thou hast blest. Abhorring sin and all ungodliness may we abound in holy living.

Through the influences of Thy Holy Spirit

confirm our vows. Should the message come to us, "This year thou shalt die," may we be found ready to depart. As the bridegroom cometh may we with oil in our lamps be prepared to meet Him. Henceforth, Lord, may we be as those who are hastening from the enthraldom of Egypt, or the toils of the desert, to the freedom and blessedness of the better land.

As, O God, we have commenced the year by solemn worship, grant that daily while it continues we may seek Thy grace. To the close of our lives may we in a sense of Thy presence experience that peace which is the earnest and foretaste of heavenly rest. Our comfort in time, Lord, be our hope in death, and our eternal recompense. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

LIX.

Good Friday.

With words of devout thanksgiving and grateful praise would we, O God, approach Thy presence. In the sufferings of Thy beloved Son may we see the exceeding sinfulness of sin, and in the inestimable price of our redemption the unfathomed depths of Thy

mercy. Scarcely for a righteous man will one die ; peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But Thou didst so commend Thy love towards us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Worthy, O God, is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. May the bitter agony of Gethsemane, and that terrible anguish which at Calvary brought forth the cry, "My God ! my God ! why hast Thou forsaken me ?" lead us to contemplate the amazing depth of Thy love for sinners. To the great Sufferer's words, "It is finished," may we devoutly answer, "O death, where is thy sting ? O grave, where is thy victory ?" And as on the cross the Redeemer addressed the penitent one, "To-day shalt Thou be with me in paradise," may we in these gracious words see heaven opened to the guilty. Lord, lead us to feel that if when we were enemies we were reconciled to Thee by the death of Thy Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. For the excellency of His knowledge may we count all things but loss. Looking to Him as the author and finisher of our faith may we rest upon Him as our sure foundation. In Him as the stone which

the builders rejected may we place our eternal hope. Realising His gracious words, "No man cometh unto the Father but by me," may our prayer continually ascend to Thee through His grace. As He bore His cross may we in lowly self-denial take up our cross daily. Redeemed by His blood may we be purified by His grace. Gracious Father, as Thou camest to those who on the day of Pentecost waited for power and consolation, come by Thy Holy Spirit into our hearts.

Be ours, O King of mercy, still
To feel Thy presence from above,
And in Thy word and in Thy will
To hear Thy voice and know Thy love.
And when the toils of life are done,
And nature waits Thy dread decree,
To find our rest beneath Thy throne,
And look in humble hope to Thee.

Resting upon Him who resisted unto death may we pursue our path, not alarmed by dangers, nor overcome by fear, believing that He is able to keep that we have committed to Him.

Holy Father, may the same mind be in us as was in Christ Jesus. Obedient to Thy will, and faithfully discharging our several duties, may we live to Thy glory. Bearing

trials with patience and troubles with composure may we not become faint or weary. Redeemed by the precious blood of Christ may we to His care surrender ourselves more and more. Glorifying Thee upon earth may we finish the work which Thou hast given us to do, walking in Thy paths blameless. And at length, O God, do Thou bring us to those blessed mansions which a risen and glorified Redeemer is now preparing for His ransomed people. Hear us, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

LX.**Before the Holy Communion.**

We bless Thee, O God, that, while Thy people thirst for Thee as in a dry land, Thou dost in the way graciously provide for them. Merciful Father, we thank Thee for all Thine ordinances, more especially for the sacrament of the Supper, in which we are privileged to commemorate the Saviour's death, and to renew our vows. We rejoice in the prospect of again partaking of this feast of love. Herein, O God, may we, according to the preparation of the sanctuary, prepare to meet Thee. In

Thy house there is bread enough and to spare. Lord, with an unfeigned sorrow for sin, lead us to Thy holy table. What shall we render to Thee for all Thy benefits ? We will take the cup of salvation, and call upon Thy name ; we will pay our vows unto Thee in the presence of Thy people.

Lord, we entreat Thy mercy. Encompassing Thy table may we see Thee and hear Thy voice. Gratefully may we eat the children's bread. Bearing in our hands the sacred symbols of a Saviour's broken body and shed blood, lead us in Thy holy place publicly to acknowledge our countless obligations. Made manifest to us in the breaking of bread, may Jesus be precious to our souls. At Thy table may our hearts burn within us, and may the flame of our love and faith ascend heavenward.

There would we feed upon the bread of God,
There drink with Thee the royal wine of heaven ;
There would we lay aside each earthly load,
There taste afresh the calm of sin forgiven.

As we partake of the consecrated memorials may we behold the Redeemer's sceptre. If His presence go not with us, Lord, carry us not up hence. Except with Thy people we can say, "It is good for us to be here,"

bring us not to the mount of ordinances. The badge of discipleship withhold not from us, O God, but show us what Thou requirest of us. In the broken bread may we see our need of spiritual food, and in the wine poured forth, our need of grace. Feed us with the heavenly manna, and let the dew of Thy grace in rich effusion rest upon our souls. Denying ourselves to vain thoughts and worldly inclinations may we surrender ourselves to Thee in a loving, holy obedience. As the Saviour has not been ashamed to call us brethren, may we, in His holy service, help, comfort, and encourage one another. Through the blood of the everlasting covenant, Lord, make us perfect in every good work to do Thy holy will. Hear us, O God, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

LXI.

After the Holy Communion.

Follow, O God, with Thy rich and effectual blessing, the sacred duty in which, within the sanctuary, we have been engaged. We bless Thee for all that our eyes have seen, and our ears have heard, and our hands have handled, of the word of life. Having witnessed a good

confession, and anew consecrated ourselves to Thee, may we henceforth cherish a loving desire to do Thy will. Ruling our hearts by Thy Holy Spirit enable us to live to Him who died for us. Having been with Jesus on the Mount may we not come down from it to engage in the idle frivolities of the world. Let not the good seed be scorched by the sun, or scattered by the winds ; but in our hearts let it grow up in an abundant increase. Having laid our hand to the plough may we not look back. May the bread of life feed us, and the wine of the Holy Spirit impart strength and energy to our souls. Crucifying the flesh and every sinful desire may we die daily. Having partaken of the Gospel feast may we ever live near the Master of assemblies. Wearing the garment of holiness may we abandon the livery of the world. Having looked on Him whom our iniquities have pierced may we ever feed upon Him by a living faith.

Bread of the world, in mercy broken ;
Wine of the soul, in mercy shed ;
By whom the words of life were spoken ;
And in whose death our sins are dead—
Look on the heart by sorrow broken,
Look on the tears by sinners shed,
And be Thy feast to us the token,
That by Thy grace our souls are fed.

Lord, bless our discipleship, and prepare us through grace for sitting down in glory with that bright assembly who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

May the young who this day for the first time have made a public profession of their faith, experience that Jesus cares for the lambs. May aged communicants prove faithful; let them not depart hence till their eyes have seen Thy salvation. May all who have this day joined with us in commemorating the Saviour's death be knit together in love. Lord, keep their eyes from tears, their feet from falling, and their souls from death. Bless all the members of the Christian Church. Clothe each of them in the garment of righteousness. Hear us, gracious Father, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

LXII.

After a Baptism.

Lord, we bless that Thou hast not left us as strangers without the covenant of promise, but that in Thy holy ordinances Thou art fulfilling the promise made to Thy people, that Thou wouldest be with them always, even

to the end of the world. We thank Thee that ever and anon members are being added to the Church of the Redeemer. Ratify and confirm in heaven the act of baptism, so that this little one visibly admitted into Thy family may receive the seal of Thy covenant. Begin in this infant's heart the good work of grace; let the child be blest in the Saviour's arms. O God, over this helpless object of parental affection do Thou watch graciously. Endowing the parents with a sense of their sacred obligations enable them to bring up in Thy nurture and admonition the child which Thou hast given them.

Heavenly Father, may we all have grace to remember that early in life we were dedicated to Thee in baptism. But as the external rite cannot avail without internal cleansing, do Thou apply to our souls the blood of Jesus, and to our hearts the purifying stream of Thy blessed Spirit. Open our eyes, and our lips will show forth Thy praise. As Thou desirest truth in the inward part, in the hidden part make us to know wisdom. Purge us with hyssop, and we shall be clean; wash us, and we shall be whiter than snow; draw us, and we shall run after Thee.

With a live coal from the altar touch our

Lips. Let our hearts be established with grace. Put Thy law into our hearts ; restore our souls. Rejoicing in Thine ordinances may we therein, as in a well-watered garden, be refreshed and satisfied. May we taste and see that Thou art good. Anointed through the Lord Jesus, evermore incline us to do Thy will. Putting off the old man with his deeds may we put on the new man, who is created in righteousness and in holiness. Lord, unseal our ears, that we may hear ; open our eyes, that we may see ; remove the veil from our understandings, that we may comprehend the marvellous things Thou hast done for our souls. Renouncing the pomp and vanities of the world may we, in the riches of Thy goodness and forbearance and long-suffering, rejoice together.

Spirit of Light, explore
And chase our gloom away,
With lustre shining more and more
Unto the perfect day !
Spirit of Truth, be Thou
In life and death our guide ;
O Spirit of Adoption, now
May we be sanctified !

Hear us, good Lord, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

LXIII.

After a Marriage.

Lord, we bless Thee for the comforts of life and the sweets of society. Thou didst create man male and female, and didst constitute marriage. Sanctify the union which under Thy sanction has now been consecrated. United to each other by an earthly tie may Thy servants be united to Thee by a spiritual covenant. Brought together by Thy providence may they, imbued by Thy grace, be mutually helpful not only in relation to this fleeting life, but in regard to the great concerns of eternity. Encompassing them with Thy favour, guide them by Thy counsel, and direct them by Thy wisdom. May the husband love and honour his wife; may the wife see that she reverence her husband. More to each other than to all the world besides, may they divide each other's cares, and double ~~the~~ each other's joys. In their dwelling let the voice of joy be ever heard. Walking together ~~on~~ on earth with tender and increasing affection, may the hour which dissolves every human tie prove that their union is not bounded ~~by~~ time, but is lasting as eternity.

O God of pure affection !
By men and saints adored,
Who gavest Thy protection
To Cana's nuptial board ;
May such Thy bounties ever
To wedded love be shown,
And no rude hand dissever
Whom Thou hast linked in one.

Lord, may the institution of marriage lead us to remember the sacred bond by which we have been espoused to our holy Redeemer. Cherished by His grace may we prove obedient to His will. Forbid, Lord, that either by open rebellion or secret ingratitude we should be thrust from His embrace. In His household may we serve with humility and zeal, not eating the bread of idleness. United to Him by faith may our adorning be that of a meek and quiet spirit. May we rejoice with trembling, remembering that every human connection must be dissolved, and seeking, amidst the passing pleasures of the world, for an earnest of those spiritual joys which never fade. Wearing the garment of holiness may we wait the call, "Come up hither," and, through the grace of the Holy Spirit, be prepared for sitting down in heaven at the marriage-supper of the Lamb. Hear us, gracious God, for the Lord Jesus' sake. Amen.

LXIV.

When Detained from Public Worship.

Lord, we bless Thee that, while Thou lovest the gates of Sion, and hast declared that Thou art present with those who assemble together to worship Thee, Thou dost also visit the dwellings of Jacob, and art near to all who humbly seek Thee. In the hearts of Thy people Thou makest a temple, and to the sick and those restrained by Thy providence, art a present help. Debarred as we are this day from publicly waiting upon Thee, let our chamber become as a Bethel before Thee. By Thy presence supply our lack of privileges. Improving past opportunities may we experience a present consolation. In the exercises of reading Thy holy word and of earnest meditation may we derive comfort and blessing. Alone with Jesus may we, like the loving apostle, lean upon His breast. Washing His feet with the tears of penitence may His words of pity and of pardon revive our souls. Pour, O God, into our wounded spirits the oil of grace. Enlighten our darkness. When our bodily strength faileth, build us up.

Bless, O God, all who are detained from Thy house. Though absent from Thy courts may they not be absent from Thy care. May they worship Thee in their dwellings, or under the canopy of that great temple which Thou hast reared. In the sentiments of the Christian poet may they find comfort.

Blest are the souls who find a place
Within the temple of Thy grace ;
There they behold Thy gentler rays,
And seek Thy face, and learn Thy praise ;
Cheerful they walk, with growing strength,
Till all shall meet in heaven at length ;
Till all before Thy face appear,
And join in nobler worship there.

May those permitted to attend Thy sanctuary improve their privileges. As they raise their voices in devout melody may their hearts resound Thy praise. Hearing Thy word may they be strengthened and built up.

Have compassion on the indifferent, even upon those who forsake Thy courts. Give them true repentance, and in bringing them to serve and honour Thee, grant that they may find peace. Let all the people praise Thee. Graciously hear us, O God, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

LXV.

Child's Morning Prayer.

Lord, lead me, Thy little one, to lisp Thy praise. Knowing Thee to be good and kind and true, make me to serve, honour, and obey Thee.

Gentle Jesus, meek and mild,
Look upon a little child ;
Pity my simplicity,
Suffer me to come to Thee.

Make me gentle. Shunning evil and avoiding deceit and wickedness, may I incline to read Thy Holy Book, which maketh wise and teaches the way to heaven. May I rejoice in hymns which tell of Jesus; may I delight to pray and to worship Thee in church, in the family, and at my mother's knee. Holy Father, accept my feeble praise. Bring me up to manhood leaning on Thy staff. Make me humble, keep me pure; like Jesus may I go about ever doing good. Bless my dear parents; may I dearly love them, and honour all who love Thee. Bless my relatives, companions, and friends. Bless my minister, my teachers, and all those who comfort my parents and care for me. Hear me, Heavenly Father, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

LXVI.

Child's Evening Prayer.

Lord, come to a little child, who seeks through Jesus to come to Thee; help him to worship Thee, give him right words, a pure heart, and loving faith. Teach me, Heavenly Father, to trust and serve Thee. Forgive my many sins, my indolence, my heedlessness, my forgetfulness of Thee. Purify my soul. Lead me to see Jesus, and to be like Him. In the nursery, in the playground, and at school, may I feel that His loving arms are around me. May I take heed lest by profane words or wicked thoughts I should distress or vex Him. Let me reprove those who offend Thee, so that they may repent, and leaving their wicked ways, may return to Thee. Bless my dear parents; relieve their cares, remove their anxieties, and confirm their faith. From childhood make me to love Thy holy word, and to read a portion daily. As I increase in stature may I grow in grace. Be very good to me, O God, and grant that whether I die in youth or in old age, I may fall asleep in Jesus. And now as I am about to seek rest in sleep, hear me as I further pray—

Mighty God, while angels bless Thee,
May an infant lisp Thy name ;
Lord of men, as well as angels,
Thou art every creature's theme.

Hear me, gracious Father, for my Redeemer's sake. Amen.

LXVII.

Youth's Morning Prayer.

Holy Father, I kneel before Thee, for Thou art my Maker. Thou didst fashion all my bones, and breathe into me a living spirit. Thou hast given me loving parents, kind friends, and a pleasant home. From Thee I receive food and clothing. Thou preservest me during the day, and in the night protectest me. In Thee I sleep and wake. Thou art around me, guarding me from evil. Blessed art Thou, O my Father. May I delight in praising Thee. Content to bear the yoke in my youth when the foward entice may I not consent with them. How can I be wicked and sin against Thee ? Lord, cleanse my way ; make me to grow up as a plant in Thy garden. Like the infant Samuel, may I hear Thy voice, and, like him, answer Thee, " Speak,

Lord, for Thy servant heareth." Avoiding youthful lusts make me sober-minded, gentle, loving, the companion of the wise and prudent. Lord, may I be taught of Thee ; in the days of my youth may I remember Thee.

Make me gentle, make me good,
Let no evil fill my breast ;
Never leave me night or day,
Watch me when I play or rest.

Keep me, O God, within the Redeemer's fold ; may I feel the Saviour's hand upon me, and upon His bosom rest my head. Bless my parents, teachers, brothers, friends. Bless all who live in this house and family. Let all who love Thee feel that Thou art nigh to them ; those who are far from Thee bring near. May all, young and old together, honour, love, and serve Thee. Lord, hear me, for the Saviour's sake. Amen.

LXVIII.

Youth's Evening Prayer.

In the evening, merciful Father, would I come to Thee, and humbly entreat Thy blessing. I have nothing to offer Thee, for Thou art God. But, Lord, I know Thou art pleased

with the praise of the young, for the Saviour blessed the children that were brought to Him. Bless me, O my Father, and while saints and angels worship Thee, accept my humble praise. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way ? Lord, lead me to give my heart to Thee, lest I should wander from the path of Thy commandments. In acquiring knowledge may I seek Thee first. May I see Thee in the volume of history, and in the book of science ; may I see Thee in the blue heavens, on the green earth, and on the great and wide sea. And, Lord, when I cannot trace Thee, may I still trust Thee as my protector and shield.

Bountiful Father, lead me to grow in wisdom —
as in years. Obedient to my parents may —
honour Thee. May I daily approach nearer —
to Thee, and walk more closely under Thy
living shadow.

Heavenly Father, Thou hast taught me
Thus to seek Thee in my youth ;
Hitherto Thy grace hath brought me,
Lead me onward in Thy truth.
I am weak, do Thou uphold me,
And from every snare defend ;
Let Thy mighty arms enfold me,
Save me, keep me, to the end.

Not ready to take offence, make me patient.
Safe in the Redeemer's arms may I not dread
sickness, or pestilence, or death. During the
night take me under Thy loving care; grant
me refreshing sleep, and bring me in safety to
the light of a new day. And all I ask is for
the Lord Jesus' sake. Amen.

LXIX.

For a Blessing on the Young.

Gracious Father, hear us as we entreat Thee
on behalf of the young. May they experience
Thy fatherly protection. Reverencing their
Creator may they be sober-minded. Avoid-
ing dissolute associates may they choose com-
panions among the wise and prudent. May
they be obedient to their parents, faithful to
their friends, forgiving to their enemies, and
useful in the world. Docile and apt to learn
may those who instruct them be comforted
by their attention and progress, and may those
growing up around them be benefited by their
example. With the dawn of thought and the
warmth of early affection may they to the
blessed Saviour dedicate their lives.

Gracious Father, bless the young. Unseduced by worldly fascination may their pleasures be pure, their enjoyments innocent. Let the rising generation become wiser than their fathers; raise them up as a seed to serve Thee. Baptized in the name of Jesus may they be endeared to Him by the ties of a young discipleship. Feeding on the manna of Thy holy word may they grow in grace.

Remember with the young those in the noon and vigour of life. In Thee may they rest their confidence, and place their hope. May all now before Thee remember the pious lessons of their youth, and prove steadfast. Holy Saviour, call us unto Thee, and encircle us with Thy favour.

O Thou, whose infant feet were found
Within Thy Father's shrine !
Whose years, with changeless virtue crowned,
Were all alike divine !

Dependent on Thy bounteous breath,
We seek Thy grace alone,
In childhood, manhood, age, and death,
To keep us still Thine own.

Blessed Father, hear our prayers, for the
Redeemer's sake. Amen.

LXX.

For the Aged.

Lord, Thou hast regard to the work of Thy hands ; Thou didst nourish us in infancy, protect us in youth, and guide our inexperience. Even until now hast Thou provided for our daily wants. Forsake us not, we pray Thee, when we are old, and our strength fail-
eth. Even when the outward man perisheth, may the inward man be renewed day by day. By recalling to us Thy mercies increase our trust. Though our eyes be dim, and our ears dull of hearing, may we discern Thy love, and hear Thy voice. If with feeble step we approach Thine altar may we yet with re-
newed strength be enabled to exclaim, “The Lord be magnified.”

With length of days grant us wisdom, and let experience of Thy loving-kindness increase our hope. Give Thine angels charge over us, and bear us up. Rich in faith, temperate, patient, and charitable, may we in holy living set forth Thy praise. To the young im-
parting the fruit of our experience, may we invite them in the morning of life to remember their Creator. Leaning on Thy staff may we

patiently wait till our change come. Resigned to Thy will may we crucify the flesh, and die daily. Without fear may we prepare to enter the dark valley, leaning on our Beloved. And when the day breaks, and the shadows flee away, Lord, may we open our eyes on those blessed mansions, where

All is tranquil and serene,
Calm and undisturbed repose ;
Where no cloud can intervene,
Where no angry tempest blows.
Where the tear is wiped away,
Sighs no more heave the breast ;
Where night is lost in endless day,
Sorrow in eternal rest.

Hear us, good Lord, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

LXXI.

In Personal Sickness.

Gracious Father, Thou hast said, "Call upon me in the day of trouble, and I will deliver thee." Stretch forth Thy hand and help me ; humble me under Thy rod, make me patient under Thy chastisement. Relieve my sufferings ; arrest my complaint ; cheer my

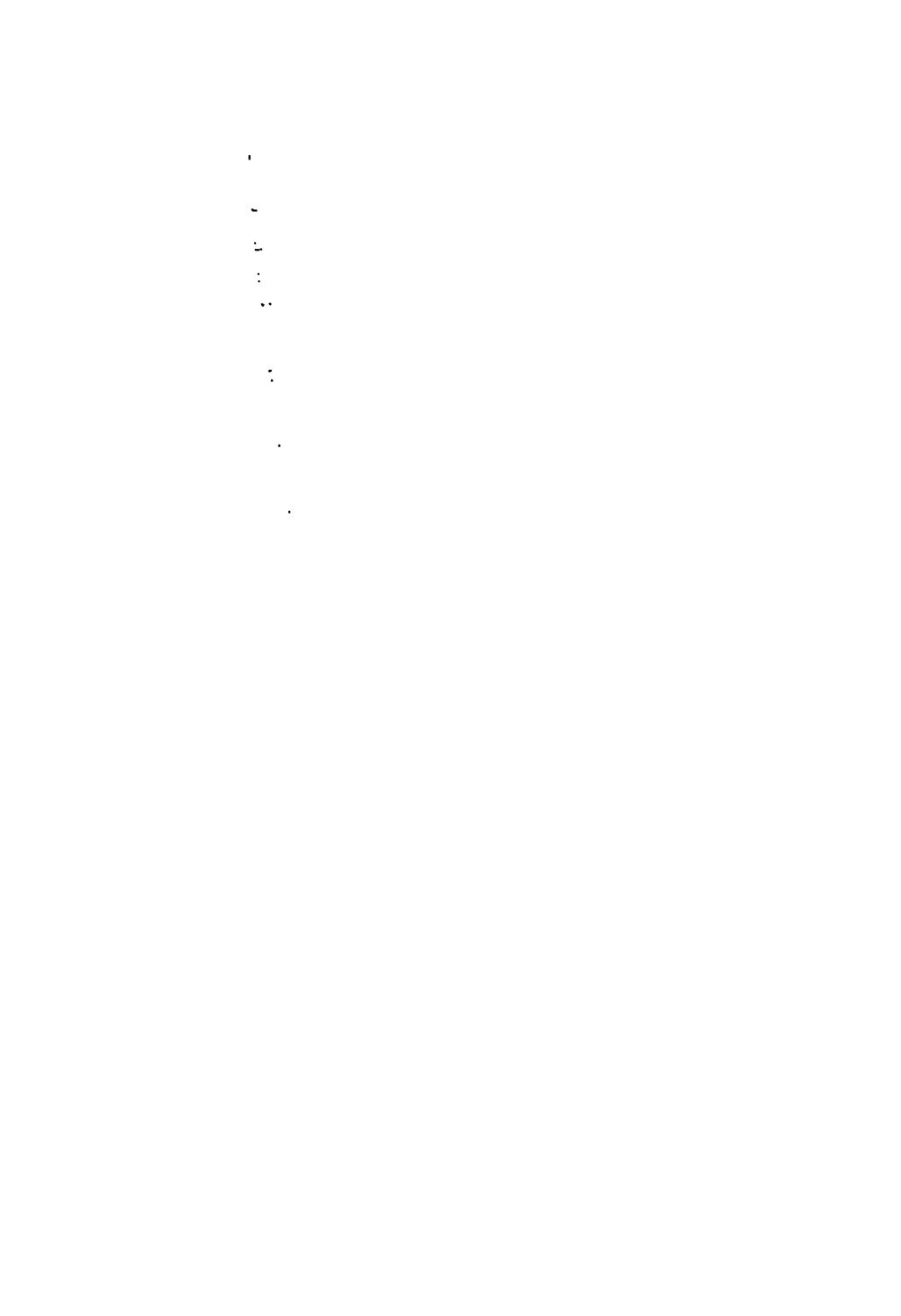
solitude. Touching the Saviour's garment may I experience peace.

Jesu ! who the sick didst heal,
And for mourners pity feel,
Hear and heed my sad appeal,
Jesu, Saviour, hear me.

Make my bed ; loose my bonds. O my Father, let this cup pass from me, if it be Thy will. Encircling me with Thy loving arms, raise up these hands which hang down ; strengthen my feeble knees. In sickness teach me wisdom, in the school of affliction fortitude.

Probe deep the wound, if so Thou wilt,
If pain must wake me, purge my dross ;
Help me to lay my load of guilt,
Beneath Thy cross.

Troubled may I not be in distress, but meekly submitting to Thy will may I experience the present sickness as an harbinger of mercy. Lord, hide not Thy face from me. Bless the means used for my recovery ; give my physician the skill to prescribe, and those who attend upon me the ability to apply, the needful remedies. With a submissive spirit may I await the issue. Lord, lead me from the heart to say, "Thy will be done." With restored health may I proclaim Thy goodness. If the



we commend the sons and daughters of affliction. Into every wounded spirit pour the balm of consolation ; let the sorrowful obtain beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning. May none of Thy people weary of Thy correction, or faint under Thy chastisement.

We would specially commend to Thee our brother who is now experiencing Thine afflictive hand. Looking compassionately upon him enable him to feel that Thou chasatest not willingly. Tried and purified may he be strengthened unto all patience and long-suffering with joyfulness. Resting upon the Saviour may he feel that

The hand that now withholds his joys
Can reinstate his peace ;
And He who bids the tempest roar
Can bid that tempest cease.

In Thy servant may the life of Jesus be made manifest, so that, though his outward man perish, his inward man may be renewed day by day. Submitting meekly to Thy will may he in his retirement find that Thou art near. Bless the means used for his recovery. Mercifully spare him, that in the land of the living he may still bless and praise Thee. Lord, whether Thou art pleased to stay or to prolong his complaint, may he see that he is not

forgotten by Thee, neither may he doubt Thy promises. If his sickness is unto death, open up in the dark valley a way before him, and lead him in departing hence to commend his spirit into Thy hands.

Bless, Lord, the afflicted everywhere ; show them that Thou dost chasten them for their profit. Let the distressed in mind, body, and estate experience Thy favour. Sustain the bereaved, comfort the mourner, draw near to the dying. Bless us, O God, with all temporal mercies, and through grace prepare us for the heavenly inheritance. All we ask is for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

LXXIII.

On the Death of a Friend.

Compassionate God and gracious Father, we would reverently draw nigh to Thee. As the death of Thy saints is precious in Thy sight, we would now in the vale of weeping entreat Thy help. Comfort us, O Lord, we pray Thee, for in the removal of one who was our companion, and with whom we took sweet counsel, has the sun gone down upon

our joy. In closer fellowship with Thee may we derive consolation. Remembering that Jesus wept at the grave of Lazarus, and hearing His voice saying, "I am the resurrection and the life," may we through grace become resigned and peaceful.

Merciful God, moderate our grief, assuage our sorrow, confirm our hope. Let the blessed salutation "The Lord hath risen," cheer our hearts. Submissive to Thy will may we be able with one of old to exclaim, "The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord." Feeling that our departed friend has gone to an inheritance prepared for him, may we strive diligently to follow him to those blessed mansions, where separation is unfelt and mourning is unknown.

Comfort, O God, the family of the deceased. Bereft of one whom they dearly loved may they cling closer to Thee, and to one another. Deprived of an earthly counsellor may they in Jesus experience a friend who sticketh closer than a brother.

Show us, O God, how frail we are; lead us to number our days. Withdrawing our affection from a world of which the fashion passeth away, lead our thoughts towards the better country. Peacefully guiding us through

our earthly pilgrimage, prepare us for the hour of our departure. And may we give all diligence to make our calling and election sure, so that when our earthly house of this tabernacle is dissolved, we may have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

While we tread the mortal vale,
Where the shades of death prevail,
Saviour, guide our trembling feet
Through this last, this still retreat;
Let Thy glory chase its gloom,
Light the feeble travellers home ;
Never leave us till we stand
Safe in yonder heavenly land.

To Thy name, blessed Saviour, be all the praise. Amen.

LXXIV.

In Adversity.

Lord, Thou art the stay of the sorrowful, the relief of the oppressed, the support of all who are in trouble. Thy people Thou afflictest not willingly, but for their profit ; from them Thou withholdest not but that Thou *mightest* bestow upon them more abundantly.

Resigned and patient show us why Thou contendest with us. O God, in the words of Thy servant hear us—

All things are ours—yea, the present affliction,
Though now through the gloom of mortality viewed,
For soon shall we joy in the blissful conviction
That thus it was good to be tried and subdued.

All things are ours through the Saviour's merit ;
The shame of His cross, which must needs be our own,
Will lighten the glory that circles the spirit,
And sparkles like gems in our heavenly crown.

Seeking to share the glory of the Redeemer's crown may we patiently bear His cross, and in the vale of humiliation walk resignedly. Comfort us in the furnace, and on the cloud of adversity reflect the bow of promise. Lord, cover us with Thy tent, in Thy pavilion shelter us. In the waters of sorrow let us behold Thy love. In the school of affliction train and sanctify us. Enlighten our darkness, revive our hope. Not overwhelmed by trial let us weigh the mercies we have received against the sorrows we have experienced, so that we may not complain, but rather greatly rejoice. Let the present trouble draw us nearer and closer to Thyself. Hear us, gracious Father, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

LXXV.

In Joyfulness.

In Thee, O God, who art the author of happiness, the source of comfort, would we rejoice together. To Thy people Thou givest flowers in the valley, rivers in the desert, songs in the night. Through Thy grace has the Sun of Righteousness shone upon our darkness, and when our hearts melted for heaviness Thy word hath quickened us. We bless Thee for our present joy. Like the early dew may it not pass away, but with our hearts established in grace may it prevail abundantly. What shall we render to Thee, O God, for Thy mercies? When evil entered into our bones and there was none to help, in the light of Thy countenance were we revived and comforted. We have drunk of the rivers of Thy pleasure; Thy dew has refreshed our souls. In Thy name will we set up our banners. For the glad tidings of redeeming love do we, O God, especially bless Thee. We thank Thee that the joyful sound of the Gospel has reached us through the ministry of Thy word. We bless Thee that the announcement, "A Saviour born," has come

down to us, associated with the hallowed watchword, "The Lord is risen."

Come let us join our cheerful songs
With angels round the throne ;
Ten thousand thousand are their tongues,
But all their joys are one.

"Worthy the Lamb that died," they cry,
"To be exalted thus!"
"Worthy the Lamb!" our lips reply,
"For He was slain for us!"

We rejoice in the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom, even in the spread of that holy faith which upholds the sorrowful, satisfieth the weary, and animates the desponding. Lord, keep us joyful in the days of our pilgrimage, making glad our hearts. And though the fig-tree should not blossom, nor fruit be in the vine, the olive fail, the fields yield no meat, the flocks cease in the fold, and the herd in the stall, yet let us rejoice in Thee, and greatly joy in the God of our salvation. Breathing upon us by Thy Spirit, make radiant and bright our souls. Our light in the valley, conduct us to Thy holy hill, where there is fulness of joy and pleasures for evermore. And to Thy name be everlasting praise, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

LXXVI.

For Gentleness.

Lord, Thou art full of compassion ; Thy love encircles the earth, it is resplendent in the heavens. In the meek spirit of the holy Redeemer do we especially behold Thy grace. Like Him, O God, may we be peaceable, and kind, and loving. Reproached, may we answer softly ; smitten, bear the injury ; falsely accused, appeal to Him who judgeth righteously. Long-suffering and merciful may we forgive the erring and not withdraw from the unthankful. Eschewing anger and all uncharitableness may we cherish that wisdom which is pure and gentle. Avoiding strife and foolish controversy may we love peace and pursue it.

As, Heavenly Father, we have experienced Thy gracious pardon, may we be ready to forgive those who have offended us. Abounding in love may we breathe the atmosphere of heaven. Let mercy precede and goodness follow us. Ruling our spirit may we be forbearing even to the foward. May we relieve each other's burdens, overlook each other's faults, and ever entreat Thee to aid, and help, and bless all who

are around us. From pride and self-seeking, covetousness and vain-glory, graciously deliver us. And, Lord, in the words of the pious hymnist further hear our petitions—

Far from Thy servants, God of grace,
The unfeeling heart remove ;
And form in our obedient souls
The image of Thy love.

O may our sympathising hearts
The generous pleasure know,
Kindly to share in others' joy,
And weep for others' woe.

And all we ask is for the Redeemer's sake.
Amen.

LXXVII.

For Contentment.

Manifold, O God, have been Thy mercies towards us. Above all Thine other gifts we bless Thee for a Saviour's love. We thank Thee for His hallowed teaching, the example of His holy life. Resigned, patient, and uncomplaining, He was pierced with many sorrows. Meek, gentle, and loving, He hungered in the desert, agonised at Gethsemane, and at

Calvary submitted to that intolerable anguish which burst His heart. Lord, animate us by His blessed Spirit. Thankful for Thy bounties and content with our lot, make us resigned to Thy holy will. Relying on Thy wisdom and trusting in Thy liberality may we thankfully accept Thy bounties, nor murmur when Thou withholdest them. Because Thou hast said, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee," may we serve Thee cheerfully. Lord, hear us as we further pray.

Our God, our Father, while we stray
Far from our home, in life's rough way,
O teach us from our heart to say,
Thy will be done.

Should pining sickness waste away
Our life in premature decay,
Our Father, still we strive to say,
Thy will be done.

If but my fainting heart be blest
With Thy sweet Spirit for its guest,
My God, to Thee I leave the rest,
Thy will be done.

May Thy people everywhere, O Lord, be imbued with a contented, humble, and obedient spirit to the praise of Thy holy name. For the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

LXXVIII.

For a Pure Conversation.

Blessed, O God, are the pure in spirit, for they shall see Thee. Lord, cleanse our hearts, and our lips shall show forth Thy praise. Avoiding idle talk and foolish jesting may our words be pure, our averments simple. Discreet and prudent may we abstain from unhallowed mirth. Having our conversation seasoned with salt may we put to shame those who would dare to mock Thy holy name. As lights in a dark place, and with Thy word dwelling in our hearts, may we to every one that asketh us be able to give a reason for our hope and faith.

'Midst hourly cares may love present
Its incense to Thy throne ;
And, while the world our hands employs,
Our hearts be Thine alone.

In mutual converse may we, Heavenly Father, declare Thy goodness. Encouraging the depressed, and raising the faint-hearted, may we stimulate the inquiring, and confirm the doubtful. Eschewing flattery may we in reproof avoid harsh and bitter words. Speaking the truth in the love of it may we be

sincere and without guile. And do Thou, the God of Peace, who brought again from the dead the Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do Thy will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in Thy sight, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

LXXXIX.

For Temperance.

Thou art, O God, of purer eyes than to behold iniquity, and cannot look upon sin but with abhorrence. Thou providest us with food and raiment, and all things necessary for our bodies. Thou hast cheered our souls by an abundant revelation, even by the hope of an inheritance that is incorruptible and undefiled. Forbid, Lord, that by intemperate pleasures we should abuse our minds. Eschewing excess and gluttony may we shun the society of the dissolute, and avoid their snares. Not desirous of dainty food may we be content with such things as are set before us.

Our meat indeed, our drink indeed
Art Thou, our gracious Lord ;
Help Thou our souls by faith to feed
On Thy most precious word.

Remembering that our bodies are temples of the Holy Ghost may we keep them under subjection, abstaining from every indulgence which might enflame or degrade our souls. Striving against sin may we be temperate ; warring against corruption may we be sober. Let our moderation, O God, be known and imitated. Help our infirmities, lest by falling aside we should bring dishonour on Thy holy name. Following the Saviour's example may we seek to reclaim the erring, and to bring the wanderer back into the sheepfold. Help us, good Lord, for the Redeemer's sake.
Amen.

LXXX.

For Christian Decision.

Lord, establish our hearts. No longer faint-hearted or halting between two opinions may we this day choose whom we will serve. Compassed about with a cloud of witnesses may we lay aside every weight, and the sin

which doth so easily beset us, and in the race set before us run with patience.

We are Thy people, O God ; may we know Thee only. In Thy service make us steadfast and unmovable. Having laid our hand to the plough may we not look back ; having begun a great work may we not abandon it. Proving all things may we hold fast that which is good. Not carried about with every wind of doctrine may we stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free. On this Rock may we build our hope.

Lord, seal our convictions, and grant that with our hearts established in holiness we may maintain our faith with a good conscience, and stand in Thy holy will complete and perfect. Rejoicing in Thy word may we avoid strange doctrines, more especially the counsels of those who lie in wait to deceive. Examining every spirit whether it be of God may we watch against the suggestions of a wayward or corrupt fancy. Acquainting ourselves with Thy ways, and prayerfully meditating on Thy testimonies, may we be ready to give to every man that asketh us a reason of the hope that is in us. Having set our own faces Sionward may we entreat those around us also to make a covenant with Thee. Through

good and bad report may we cleave to Him who first loved us, and not be ashamed to acknowledge Him openly.

Then steadfast let us still remain,
Though dangers rise around,
And in the work prescribed by God
Yet more and more abound.
Assured that though we labour now,
We labour not in vain,
But through the grace of heaven's great Lord
The eternal crown shall gain.

And all we ask is for the Redeemer's sake.
Amen.

LXXXI.

For Increased Industry.

Thou hast, O God, dignified occupation and consecrated labour. Patriarchs and prophets and apostles laboured on the land or on the ocean. At Nazareth the blessed Jesus toiled. Lord, make us diligent. Looking well to our ways may we improve the fragments of time, even hours and minutes. Lamenting misimproved opportunities and wasted energies may we avoid sloth and eschew indolence. Whatsoever our hand findeth to do may we do

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LXXXII.

For a Prayerful Spirit.

Lord, teach us to pray. Approaching Thee with reverence and in humility may we, both with the spirit and with the understanding, make our requests known to Thee. Thou art the hearer of prayer; Thine ear is ever open to the entreaties and supplications of Thy believing people. To them of old Thou didst say, “If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and heal them.” Lord, we cry to Thee from the dust; with uplifted hands we entreat Thy pardon. We come to Thee in weakness seeking strength, in misery entreating comfort, in perplexity desiring peace. Be not far from us, O God. Let our prayer come before Thee as incense, and the lifting up of our hands as the evening sacrifice.

Lord, may we see Thee in Jesus Christ as a reconciled Father, and may we hear His voice saying, “Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.” In approaching Thy throne

of grace may we experience solace, strength, and blessing. Renewing our vows may we be anointed with the rich effusion of Thy Holy Spirit. Dissipating sad and gloomy thoughts may prayer warm our hearts, relieve our anxieties, and cheer us as by the torch of hope. As on a ladder between earth and heaven may our petitions ascend upward, and Thy blessings come down, like the refreshing dew, to rest upon our souls. In the atmosphere of devotion may we henceforth live. Evening, morning, and at noon would we call to Thee, O God; do Thou hear and answer us. For our friends and for our enemies do we pray, and for those who are near, and for those who are far off, that they may be brought nigh. We pray for pastors and teachers, for the widow and the fatherless, the afflicted and the aged, the young and inexperienced, the traveller on the land and on the ocean, and for the friendless stranger. For the conversion of the heathen we pray, and for the right improvement of their privileges by those to whom the Gospel has been preached. With an earnest prayerful spirit would we, O Lord, close our supplications in the words of the pious hymnist—

There are briers besetting every path,
Which call for patient care ;
There is a cross in every lot,
And an earnest need for prayer ;
But a lowly heart that leans on Thee
Is happy anywhere.

Hear us, good Lord, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

LXXXIII.

For the Poor.

O God, may we remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how He said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive ;" may we devoutly rest on Thine assurance—that he who giveth to the poor lendeth to Thyself. May we care for the poor, by ministering to them in sickness, and as means and opportunities are afforded us, by providing for their necessities. Having freely received of Thy bounty may we freely dispense it. May we honour Thee with our substance, and on those whom Thou hast entrusted to our protection bestow the first-fruits of our increase. With unrestrained beneficence may we sow not where we hope to reap, but distribute to those who cannot recompense us.

Oh, may our sympathising hearts
The generous pleasure know ;
Kindly to share each other's joy,
And weep for others' woe.
When the most helpless sons of grief
In low distress are laid,
Soft be our hearts their pains to feel,
And swift our hands to aid.

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, though He was rich, for our sakes became poor, may we in willing sacrifice relieve all who are in need. While in obedience to Thy command we provide for their temporal necessities, do Thou enrich their souls. From the well of salvation enable them to draw joyfully ; make them glad in Thee. Preserve them in their uprightness, and let them walk in their integrity. Lord, hear us, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

LXXXIV.

For a Servant.

To Thee, O God, to whom all service belongs, do I desire reverently to draw near. Obedient to Thy will lead me humbly to wait upon Thee. For all my duties refresh and strengthen me. Like my heavenly Master,

who came not to be ministered unto but to minister, make me patient, gentle, and loving. Faithful to those who have the rule over me may I not seek to please men, but to please Thee. Avoiding negligence and sloth make me zealous and prudent. Cleanse me from secret faults; keep me from presumptuous sins. Shield me from temptation, and enable me to avoid the way of evil. For the discharge of every duty refresh and strengthen me. Diligently serving in the sphere in which Thou hast placed me let my example stimulate those who serve with me.

Be mine, O King of Mercy, still
To feel Thy presence from above,
And in Thy word and in Thy will
To hear Thy voice, and know Thy love.

And when the toils of life are done,
And nature waits Thy dread decree,
To find my rest beneath Thy throne,
And look in humble hope to Thee.

Bless, O Lord, all my relatives and friends.
Bless those who serve and love the Lord Jesus,
and add to the number of Thy believing people.
Hear me, O God, for the Redeemer's sake.
Amen.

LXXXV.

For Soldiers.

To Thee, who art the Lord of hosts, the God of Battles, would we approach with deep reverence and in godly fear. In all generations Thou hast upholding Thy people, delivering them from their oppressors, and from the hurtful sword. Trusting in Thy grace we would exclaim, "though an host encamp against us, we will fear no evil." O Thou, who teachest our hands to war, and our fingers to fight, cover our heads in the day of battle; protect us from the shafts of death; be our shield and deliverer. Giving us strength to endure and power to resist, grant success to our arms. Under victory may we be merciful to the vanquished; under defeat resigned and patient. Equip us, O Lord, in the armour of righteousness, and lead us diligently to prepare for eternity. Loyal to our sovereign, and obedient to our commanders, may we inscribe holiness on our breastplate, and as good soldiers of Jesus Christ, fight the good fight of faith. From the snares of intemperance, profanity, and lewdness, graciously deliver us.

Against the powers of darkness,
With hellish craft and rage,
Our heavenly Captain calls us
Incessant war to wage.
No parley may be trusted—
Not till our course is run
May we lay down our weapons,
And say the victory's won.

Lord, we commend to Thy protection and favour all who along with us in the present campaign are sustaining the honour and liberties of our country. Impart to our leaders wisdom, prudence, and the spirit of judgment; and grant that all under them may be obedient, vigilant, and faithful. May our physicians be skilful, and may those who minister to the sick and wounded be kind and gentle. Relieve suffering, mitigate pain, assuage grief. Comfort the mourner, and to the widow and fatherless impart comfort and consolation. Give a happy issue to the present war; seal up the vials of Thy wrath. Stay Thy hand, and grant that even through strife and conflict, a way for the Prince of Peace may be opened up. Hasten the time when nations shall no longer strive in war, but, beating their swords into ploughshares, shall follow the arts of peace. And to Thee, O God, be all praise and glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

LXXXVI.**For Seamen.**

Unto Thee, who madest the sea and all that is therein, would we reverently draw near. Thy way, O God, is in the deep ; the winds hear and obey Thee ; the waves see Thee and tremble. Ruling the storm and governing the tempest, Thy path is on the great waters. Lord, we entreat Thy care. Heretofore hast Thou protected us ; when our hearts melted within us Thou didst quicken us. Again do we implore Thy help. Let Thine everlasting arms be underneath and around us. From dangers, seen and unseen, mercifully shelter us. Our hiding-place from the wind, our covert from the tempest, let us not go down into the depths, let not the waves overwhelm us. Speed us in our course. In the calm may we feel Thou art present; in the storm hear Thy voice. Faithful to our owners and obedient to our officers may we be faithful to Thee. Not overcome by the snares and temptations which surround us, and eschewing every corrupt desire and sinful inclination, may our speech be seasoned with salt. May the wonders of the deep lead us to loftier conceptions of Thy

character, and more justly to apprehend Thee. When the sea roars and is troubled may we see Jesus on the waves, and hear His voice saying, "It is I, be not afraid."

O Jesus ! once tossed on the breast of the billow,
Aroused by the shriek of despair from Thy pillow,
Now seated in glory, the mariner cherish,
Who cries in his danger, "Help, Lord ! or we perish."
And oh, when the whirlwind of passion is raging,
When hell in our heart his wild warfare is waging,
Arise in Thy strength Thy redeemed to cherish,
Rebuke the destroyer, "Help, Lord ! or we perish."

With the Saviour as our pilot may we not apprehend shipwreck or any other danger. Even when the gale bears heavily upon us may we rest on the anchor of hope. Steering to the better country may the Holy Spirit fill our sails. Let Thy holy word be our chart and compass.

Be with all our fellow-voyagers. Abiding in the ship of grace may they steer heavenward. May the Gospel ship ride prosperously. Receive on board those tossed on the sea of doubt. Make steadfast those voyaging under the flag of grace. Conducting them through the waves and storms of this uncertain world, prepare Thy faithful people for the shore of spiritual peace—the haven of eternal rest. And hear our prayers, for Jesus' sake. Amen.

LXXXVII.***Before a Journey.***

Lord, Thou art the guide and protector of those who put their trust in Thee. In unfrequented solitudes the patriarchs, Israel in the desert, the magi journeying to Bethlehem, and the Apostles in their travels, all experienced Thy care. On the uncultivated steppe, the burning waste, the untrodden wild, Thou hast in every age protected Thy people. As, O Lord, we are about to leave our home, we would humbly entreat Thee to give Thine angels charge over us. Protect us from lightning and tempest, pestilence and famine. In our progress may we proclaim Thy sovereignty and declare Thy faithfulness. Talking of Thee by the way may we administer comfort to the aged, and to the inexperienced encouragement. Guard us, O God, against the seductive influences of evil communication, and grant that the inspection of new scenes and objects may draw us nearer and closer to Thyself. May change of occupation refresh us for new duties, or for better discharging those which are begun. Whether we stay at home or go abroad, may we walk in the path of

holiness, and strive to enter in at the straight gate. Lord, be our rod and staff, our pillar of fire and cloud, our pioneer on the land, our pilot on the ocean.

Father of love, our Guide and Friend,
Oh, lead us gently on,
Until life's trial time shall end,
And heavenly peace be won.
We know not what the path may be,
As yet by us untrod ;
But we can trust our all to Thee,
Our Father and our God.

Hear us, merciful Father, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

LXXXVIII.

For an Abundant Harvest.

Fountain of mercy and God of love, Thy bounties are rich and blessed ; the seasons proclaim Thy care. Among Thy gracious promises hast Thou assured us that seedtime and harvest shall not cease. Bless, O God, the labours of the husbandmen. Warmed by the sun, and moistened by the dew, may the seed which they have sown yield an abundant increase. As a people, and as individuals

have mercy upon us. Notwithstanding our many sins, and our innumerable provocations, afflict not our land with barrenness ; break not the staff of bread. Restraine the winds and rains, and grant that the fruits of the earth freely matured may be safely cut down and gathered in. Fill our storehouses that the people may be satisfied, and that the poor may bless Thee.

With abundance of bread grant us the blessing of grateful hearts.

Our hearts and voices let us raise
In songs of thankfulness and praise ;
Our heavenly Father's love to bless,
Who crowns the year with fruitfulness.

Sow, O God, in our hearts, the seed of godliness ; uproot the tares of sin. Refreshed by the dew of Thy Holy Spirit, may our souls be as well-watered gardens, bringing forth fruit to Thy praise. In Thy service may we grow as plants by the water-courses, and flourish as the palm-trees.

Let the precious seed of the Gospel germinate in all lands ; may the parched ground become as a pool, and in the thirsty land arise springs of water. Into Thy spiritual harvest send forth labourers endowed with zeal and

energy, and grant that they may reap abundantly. Let the wilderness become a fruitful field, and the whole earth be as a garden which Thou the Lord hast blessed. Hear us, for the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

LXXXIX.

For our Enemies.

O God, we bless Thee for the comfort of friendship ; we thank Thee for loving relatives, genial companions, kindly benefactors. Seeing Thou hast surrounded us with those who love and honour us, may we not complain though some should be unkind, and should oppose and injure us. Remembering that the Saviour, who went about doing good and offended none, was nevertheless oppressed and scorned, may we, like Him, be under provocation meek and gentle, not rendering evil for evil, but contrariwise blessing. We would, O Lord, pray for our enemies, even for those who abuse and persecute us. Lord, turn their hearts ; give them true repentance. Even if their unkindness should continue, we would desire to exercise towards them that

loving spirit through which on the cross the Lord Jesus prayed for those who slew Him, in the ever memorable words, "Father, forgive them." Not seven times, but seventy times seven would we freely forgive all who have offended or injured us.

Lord, may the oppression of our brethren draw us nearer unto Thee, who judgeth righteously. In the furnace of trial may we see Jesus, and hear His gracious words, saying, "Fear not, I am with thee." Circumspect and vigilant may we resist the enemies of our souls. Fighting against the craft of Satan, the fascinations of the world, and the devices of our own sinful hearts, may we earnestly seek Thy help. Lord, have compassion upon us. Through grace enlighten and strengthen us.

Holy Spirit, Lord of life,
Make us victors in the strife
Over Satan, death, and hell,—
Fit us thus in heaven to dwell.
Praises then we 'll ever sing
Unto Christ our Saviour King ;
To the Father, and to Thee
Praise we 'll sing eternally.

Striving against sin may we bear each other's burdens, and encourage one another

in Thy holy service. Cherishing unity and concord, may we, as we have opportunity, cast on the waters of discord the oil of peace. Tranquillise our souls, subdue our passions ; in understanding, men, let us be in meekness, children. And to Thee, the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, one God, be all praise and glory, world without end. Amen.

xc.

The Pilgrim's Prayer.

Pilgrims in this vale we languish,
Still by care and grief oppress ;
Blessed God, dispel our anguish,
Tell us this is not our rest !

Jesus, cast Thy mantle o'er us,
Place our feet upon the Rock,
By Thy guiding star before us
Gently lead us like a flock.

When temptations sore assail us
May we hear the Shepherd's voice ;
And when earthly comforts fail us
Rest in Jesus, and rejoice.

Bring us succour, Lord, and blessing,
Help us in the narrow way ;
Thus may we, the truth confessing,
Reach at length the perfect day.

Day of cloudless bliss and glory,
Ceaseless light and endless rest,
When the hallowed Gospel story
Wakes the anthems of the blest.

Day when fled are all oppressors,
Day when closed are all complaints ;
Day when martyrs and confessors
Hail their Master, King of saints.

Blessed God, in mercy hear us,
Blot out all the guilty past ;
On the wings of faith upbear us,
And receive us home at last.

XCI.

Under Oppression.

O Gracious God, to Thee I bend
My faltering steps, Thou sinner's Friend ;
A suppliant low, to Thee I raise
The voice of gratitude and praise ;
From sorrow's depths I weeping cry :
Look on me, Lord, with pitying eye ;

Thine arm extend to set me free,
And bind my bursting heart to Thee.

O blessed Jesus, who didst shed
Compassion's tear o'er Lazarus dead ;
Who didst the Father's smile forego,
And stoop to darkest depths of woe ;
That in Thy sorrows the distrest
Might see the way to heaven and rest ;
Vouchsafe, O Christ, to succour me,
Increase my faith to trust in Thee.

O Holy Spirit, who didst come
To cheer the weary wanderer home ;
Comfort to breathe on those who mourn,
The heart to heal by anguish torn ;
On me extend, blest Paraclete,
The influence of Thy power and might ;
That so from sin and suffering free,
I peace and joy may find in Thee.

O Father, Jesus, Spirit, Lord,
Three Persons in one God adored ;
My drooping energies revive—
Bid me to come to Thee and live ;
When foes beset and friends forsake,
Lord, hear me for Thy mercy's sake ;
And grant me refuge as I flee
To cast my burdened soul on Thee.

GRACES AT MEAT.

Grace before Breakfast.

O God, with the light of the morning graciously lift upon us the light of Thy countenance, and while bestowing upon us Thy temporal mercies, feed our souls with the bread of life. For the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

Grace before Breakfast.

Sustained by Thy providence we have, O God, lain down and slept, and risen up in safety. During the day take us under Thy protection, and with these Thy gifts grant us a Father's blessing. For Christ Jesus' sake. Amen.

Grace before Dinner.

Thou dost, O God, spread a table for us in the wilderness ; our cup runneth over. Give us thankful hearts, and, whether we eat or drink, or whatsoever we do, enable us to do all to Thy glory, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Grace before Dinner.

From Thee, the Giver of every good and perfect gift, proceed all our comforts. Thou givest us food for our bodies, and hast redeemed and enriched our souls. Bless to us the present token of Thy goodness, and pardon our sins. For Jesus' sake. Amen.

Grace after Dinner.

Accept our thanks, O God, for what of Thy bounty we have now received. As we are sustained by Thy bounty, may we be devoted to Thy service. For the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

Grace after Dinner.

The eyes of all wait upon Thee, O God, and Thou givest them meat in due season. While with these Thy good gifts supplying our bodily wants, do Thou fill our souls with gratitude, and our hearts with thanksgiving. For the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

Grace before Supper.

Thou who didst in the morning supply our wants hast in the evening administered to our necessities. Continually dependent on Thy bounty may we ever live to Thy glory. For the Redeemer's sake. Amen.

Grace after Supper.

Be gracious to us, merciful Father, and enable us with thankful hearts to acknowledge these and all Thy mercies. Trusting in Thy goodness will we lay ourselves down and sleep, for Thou makest us to dwell safely. Hear us, O God, for Jesus' sake. Amen.



